



WOODRUSH STAR

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Summer 2015



@WoodrushHigh



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**Woodrush wishes you an
enjoyable summer!**





Dear Parents and Carers

As I write my last introduction to the Woodrush Star this summer, I must say, as I always have, a huge congratulations to all our students. Their hard work, the progress they have made, and all their individual contributions to our community, must be celebrated as we end another academic year.

Indeed, they could not succeed without the support of a fantastic group of staff, and the support you, our parents and carers, give us throughout the year. I have always remained convinced that there really is nothing which cannot be achieved for young people when parents and staff work closely together, and this year has been no different. It is difficult to select single examples of achievement to mention, especially when so many students and groups have experienced so much success, and have achieved in so many capacities: in the classroom; on the sports field; or during performances. They all deserve congratulating.

Therefore, it is even harder to think back over the last six years, since I have been Headteacher at Woodrush, and to choose from the many highlights. However, in a time of so much change, in education, and in the world which young people are preparing for, I am confident that at Woodrush, our young people are well prepared for life in the modern world. Their attendance is the best it has ever been, they achieve considerably better academic results than their peers around the rest of the country, and, have now, in the last few years gained places after our sixth form to some of the world's top universities including Oxford and Cambridge. We are delighted that our sixth form has grown so much and is now very much the preferred choice for those choosing to complete A-levels and with the majority aiming for University.

This summer, students will again gain excellent examination results and continue their journey in education and life. As I leave Woodrush to take up the post of Principal at Stourport High School & 6th Form Centre, I leave knowing I will miss the students,

staff and wider community, but I am confident that under the leadership of one of my current deputies Ms Natasha Rancins as Headteacher from September, our students and the school will continue to go from strength to strength.

It is the people inside schools who make a difference to young people's lives, and our staff have been recognised over the last six years for many fantastic achievements for our school. Becoming a National Teaching School last year was a significant achievement, but all of our awards, whether they are for subject areas or aspects of our work, are all significant in representing the quality of what we do. Of course, our community's best recognition has to have been our judgements from Ofsted during the last six years, with three successive 'Outstanding' inspections. Considering the changing educational climate and the considerable 'raising of the bar' by government of what it expects of schools, this just reflects the quality of our staff, and ultimately how hard our students work.

Whilst it is certainly the people who make the difference, improving our facilities has also been a priority during the last 6 years. Our buildings continue to be transformed, and in recent years we have secured grants for millions of pounds to spend on areas such as new windows to new ICT networks and improved sports facilities. Next academic year the school looks forward to the completion of the hub in October and the new fitness suite, classroom spaces, library and community space it brings with it for all our students and the wider community to enjoy for many years to come.

So, from us all at Woodrush, we wish you a great holiday. But for the final time, I would like to personally thank you for all your support, and, while I won't be there to welcome you all back to school on the 7th September, I will be thinking of you all and wishing you every possible success in the future.

Chris King
Headteacher

Contents

- 3 - VE Day
- 4-5 - Creative Arts
- 6-9 - Science
- 10-13 - Humanities
- 14-15 - Year 11 Prom
- 16-17 - Sixth Form
- 18 - Maths
- 19 - Design Technology
- 20 - ASPIRE
- 21 - MFL
- 22-23 - English
- 24-27 - Library
- 28-31 - Youth Sports
& Community
- 23-25 - PE

VE DAY CELEBRATION EVENING

On the 9th May 2015 Woodrush opened its doors to celebrate 70 years since victory in Europe was declared.

Over 150 people with an age range between 13-90 years of age, put on their glad rags and gathered together to honour and remember those who helped to bring peace to Europe in World War II.

We decorated the room with red, white and blue and hung bunting all over, staff commented it looked like the 1940s but we were unsure any of them other than Kay had been around then!

Two of the young people, Sam & Chloe, accompanied a representative from the royal British legion in dedicating the standard flag, followed by two minutes silence.

Food followed with a ploughman's dinner which was enjoyed by all.

Umbrellas had been made in red, white and blue at the youth centre, ready for the ladies jazz umbrella dance and we all danced around the floor to the jazz music played by the JB Jazz and Blues band.

We raised over £200 in the raffle! In total the night raised £1,000 profit. We would like to say a special thank you to Cllr. Jill Dyer for her financial support towards this event and to Cllr. Brain Holmes for his continued support with these events.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to the evening. Watch this space for our next event!

Written by
Megan B & Hannah G



Guess the pixelated staff member!

You will find lots of pictures of different staff members throughout the Star, but are they any old pictures? No! They are pixelated.

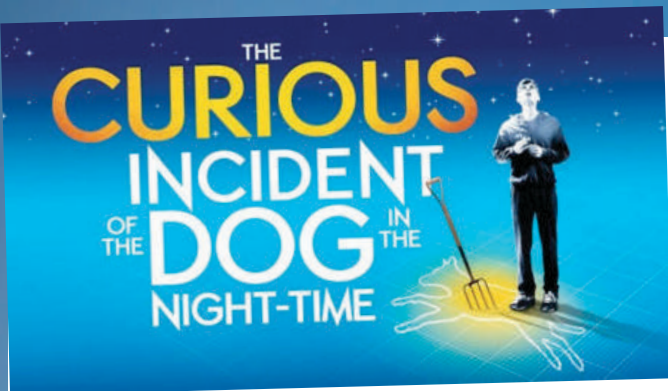
Your task? You guessed it! Work out the staff member and submit your entries on Frog!

Find the new Head!

As you all know, Miss Rancins will be our new Headteacher come September. Hidden amongst the pages of this edition there are various pictures of Miss Rancins.

Your task? Find them all Where's Wally style! Once you think you've found them all, submit number on Frog. Merits to be won!





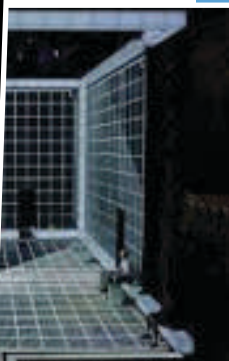
On Wednesday 3rd June, Year 9 and 10 GCSE drama students enjoyed a trip to Birmingham to see 'The curious incident of the dog in the night-time'.

The play tells the story of Christopher, a fifteen-year-old boy with an autistic spectrum condition who lives with his father. Christopher discovers the dead body of Wellington, the neighbour's dog, speared by a garden fork. He decides to investigate the dog's death, despite his father's orders to stay out of other people's business. Throughout his adventures Christopher records his experiences in a book: a "murder mystery novel".

When his father discovers the book, he confiscates it, and when searching for the confiscated book, Christopher uncovers a trove of letters which his mother has written to him. Christopher's father had told him his mother died from a heart attack in hospital several years previously when in fact the letters prove she is alive and living in London, after having an affair with a neighbour. Christopher then embarks on an adventurous trip to London, where his mother now lives with Mr Shears. The play follows his journeys and experiences to London ... and back.

The set design of the play was brilliant - a black and white mathematical grid onto which are projected diagrams, rail tracks, words and numbers to represent the locations, experiences and inner thoughts of Christopher. Clever sound and lighting effects really enhanced this great story, as did the physical theatre and movement.

The play gave students and staff loads of inspiration for the GCSE drama course and a great time was had by all.



Year 9 & 10 Drama Trip to see Teechers

On the 18th March, The Creative Arts department took 30 Year 9 & 10 Drama students to the Arena Theatre in Wolverhampton to see a performance of Teechers by John Godber. Teechers follows the experiences of the new drama teacher, Mr Nixon, at Whitewall School. Mr Nixon is encountering rivalry, cynicism and intimidation - and that's just in the staff room... Three actors cleverly play all the school personalities from the school bully to the eccentric head teacher, to the grouchy caretaker and the attractive PE mistress. At an explosive Christmas party; three students inspired by drama, and the system in which all this operates, are exposed and what a performance it was.

The actors flowed seamlessly from one character to the next, each believable just from the change in the actor's facial expressions, movement and voice. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see a live theatre production

and gave the Year 10 Drama students the chance to get some ideas for their own performances of Teechers as part of the Drama exam in June. A fantastic evening had by all!



CREATIV



Dance Moderation

Year 11 dance students represented themselves superbly when the dance AQA moderator visited and assessed them. The moderator commented on how disciplined and well behaved the group were.

All pupils had choreographed and performed some really interesting pieces of work which will also be performed at the Creative Arts festival in the summer term.



Art Exhibition

On the evening of Wednesday 6th May, the Creative Arts Faculty took over the Library and Sixth Form common room, in order for the Year 11, 12 and 13 Art & Photography students to celebrate their success with our Annual Art and Photography exhibition. Both rooms were transformed into a feast for the eyes with some really fantastic work on display for parents, staff and students to admire. We are very proud of all our students and feel that they have really excelled themselves with both the quality and quantity of work!

They have produced some lovely portfolios and final pieces that are quite an achievement alongside all of their other GCSE's.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Robertson, the librarian, and Mr Sullivan, Head of Sixth Form, for allowing us to commandeer the rooms for this event.

A selection of work was also available to view at the very first Arts Fest on 2nd July!

Mrs Martin
Art & Photography Department



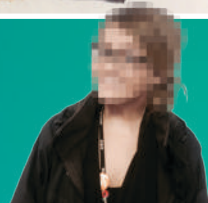
BTEC Trip



On Tuesday 9th June BTEC Art students visited the acclaimed Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty exhibition at the V&A museum in London.

The upstanding feathers, the dying roses, the vivid plaid, the skulls and bones... were a truly sensory and stimulating fashion exhibition!

Savage Beauty, the homage to the late Alexander was a visual treat and as you walk through its halls, Savage Beauty takes you on an exploration, where you see, first hand, the mind of an extraordinary creator. Both staff and students were completely bowled over by the creativity and it has had a huge impact on the students work back in class.



BTEC Music Concert

The Year 13 students put their final concert on this half term. On the 19th June, the 5 BTEC musicians welcomed an audience to Woodrush to watch them play a selection of songs through the eras. From the 1950's to present day, the students played a cover song to represent an era along with an original composition which captured the essence of the genres and styles of music of the time.

Along with these performances they chose a number of other tracks to keep the audience entertained and the Year 11 students also performed a number of pieces giving them a chance to show off their talents. A fantastic evening which had been completely organised by these 5 talented individuals, we wish them all the luck in the future!



The fantastic creative arts department put together a celebration of all things art, drama, music and dance this summer.

Musical performances from Key Stage 3 & 4 music students, 'Pop Band' and 'Woodrush Voices' took place in the foyer, along with a selection of art pieces from all the Key Stages being displayed. Performances from Year 9 & 10 GCSE drama students took place in the hall along with the first performance from the Key Stage 3 drama club who performed extracts from 'The Grimm Tales'. Dance performances finished off the night with selected performances from Year 9, 10 & 11 dance students.

A massive thank you to all those who took part and bought tickets, we hope to see you for more creative arts events next academic year!

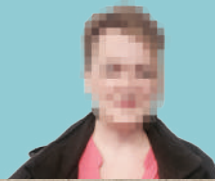
DEARNE VALLEY

Year 7 & 8 Residential

Having only just returned from the May half term break 44 year 7 and 8 pupils were straight off again to Dearne Valley in Yorkshire for 3 days. The main focus of the trip was ecology based and the pupils were able to go pond dipping and identify and classify the variety of different species living in the rather large pond. Pupils worked in the outside classroom over the pond and were taught by specialist teachers about the variety of organisms in the pond

and how they interact. Pupils also took part in a range of different activities including how to make fire with limited resources, archery and high ropes. This was a great experience for them all and they were a credit to the school.

C. Hempson



On Monday 1st June, 44 pupils from years 7 and 8, went on a science trip to Dearne Valley in Yorkshire, for 3 days. After the 2 1/2 hour journey, the students arrived at the Kingswood Dearne Valley activity centre where they were given a tour around the site which had many different activities as well as great facilities including a shop, dinner hall and classrooms etc. and once they had been shown around, the students had time to unpack and settle in before their first activity commenced.

Throughout the trip, many activities took place during the day, including:

- laser tag
- high ropes
- aero ball
- archery
- pond dipping
- bushcraft
- environmental arts

which everybody enjoyed as they were fun, adventurous and educational.

We also took part in an activity each night which were:

- who dunnit (teachers got involved by dressing up as suspects and the students had to interigate them to help them decide who did the crime- the murderer ended up being Miss Hempson)
- campfire + toasting marshmallows (students and teachers sat around the camfire and toasted marshmallows whilst singing campfire songs)

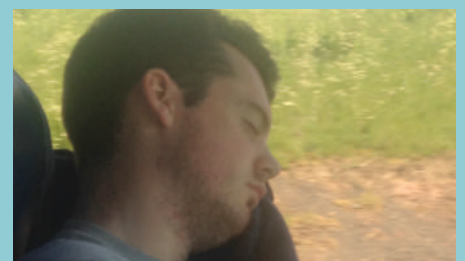
We spoke to some of the students that went on the trip and they said:

- 'the trip was good and it was funny when we did the Macarena on the high ropes'
- 'the best activity was the high ropes'
- 'it was exciting and different to other trips that I have experienced'
- 'I liked the room that was next to the shop, where we could chill out in, watch t.v. or play table tennis'

- 'I really enjoyed pond dipping because I liked finding all the different species living in the pond. I couldn't believe there were so many!!! I loved getting dirty and a bit wet too, even though I was a bit squeamish.'
- 'I LIKED THAT THE SHOP SOLD... SQUEAKY BALLS!!!'

The final thing that we would like to say, is a massive THANKYOU to all of the teachers that were involved with making the trip possible especially, Miss Hempson, Mr McDowell, Mrs Hudd and Miss Hollingworth. <3 <3 <3 <3 <3

By Mia and Fran





BIG BANG

UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair

In March science club went to the big bang fair at the LG Arena for the 'Discovery Friday' event to show off the projects they had been completing during science club. Two teams were chosen to exhibit the 'Squashed Tomatoes' projects they had been completing in teams in the sessions they attended after school.

Pupils had to come up with a way to enable farmers to transport tomatoes from up in the mountains down to the towns ensuring the tomatoes remained intact along the way. Pupils came up with a prototype design to enable visitors to show how they would do this. In the science club session prior to the trip they were also visited by Linda Scott who awarded them all with a Bronze CREST Award.



Science & Literacy Quiz

Can you spot the words that are incorrectly spelt?

There are 30 occurrences of a word spelt incorrectly in the passage (there may be the same word multiple times and each one counts!)

Can you be the first person to correctly spell all the words on FROG?

Personalized Cancer Vaccines Pass Early Test

Cancer vaccines tailored-made to a patient's individual tumor have shown success in a small study, assisting the immune system in combating cancer more effectively. However, making the process affordable is likely to prove an even bigger challenge.

T cells are one of the key elements of the immune system. Their capacity to identify abnormal cells and target them for destruction is a vital part of this. Inevitably this capacity is limited, however, and finding ways to improve T cell discrimination between cancers and healthy cells has become a major research project.

After years of frustration, Dr. Beatriz Carreno of Washington University, St. Louis, has announced in Science a successful, albeit very small, trial.

Vaccines, such as those used against polio or measles, prime T cells by exposing them to dead versions of the disease or proteins distinctive to the virus or bacterium. Once the cells have been trained to recognize the invader, they can react far more quickly to a real attack. Given that cancers offer far more time than most infectious diseases, a similar approach would be ideal were it not for the challenge of finding appropriate features for the T cells to target.

Although cancer cells express proteins that could potentially be used as antigens, or targets, for T cells, these same antigens also appear on the surface of healthy cells, albeit in smaller quantities.

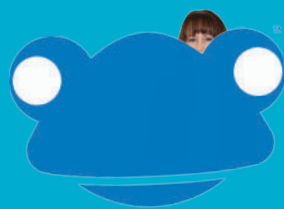
An alternative path is to focus on mutations in the DNA of cancer cells. Cancer tends to scramble the genome, and the mutations produced will cause the production of peptides that will often occur nowhere else in the body. While these peptides allow T cells to hone in on cancers while leaving healthy cells alone, they have a problem of their own – every person's peptides will be different. Consequently, it is not possible to produce a single vaccine against a type of cancer. Instead, cells must be collected from each individual's cancer and then sequenced.

Carreno chose to work on melanoma since the ultraviolet light that triggers the cancer also causes other damage to skin cells' DNA, producing a wide selection of antigens to target. She sequenced DNA removed during surgery from three melanoma patients and compared each with equivalent genes taken from healthy cells.

Potential antigens were analyzed for each patient and seven were selected per person. The chosen antigens were mixed with white blood cells drawn from the patient and then re-injected, with the process repeated three more times over several months. "This is about as personalized as vaccines can get," said co-author Dr. Elaine Mardis of Washington University.

The primary purpose of the study was to test for safety. However, lab leader Dr. Gerald Linette said, "The tumor antigens we inserted into the vaccines provoked a broad response among the immune system's killer T cells responsible for destroying tumors." The newly produced T cells killed cultured samples of the tumours.

One of the patients has been declared cancer-free. The other two had inoperable tumors left over after the primaries were removed. In both cases, the cancers were not growing 8-9 months after the process. However, in neither case is it possible to definitively credit the vaccine since other treatments were also used. Nevertheless, the combination of low toxicity and T cell production has raised hopes.



20 merits for 1st
10 merits for 2nd
5 merits for 3rd

Everyone gets a merit for entering!



BTEC Level 3 Trip Warwick University

On Friday 20th March, the Level 3 BTEC Y12 students and some AS Level chemistry students set off for our annual visit to the chemistry laboratories at Warwick University. This was the day of the solar eclipse which began whilst we were on route. Through the shaded part of the coach windscreen, we were able to see the shadow of the moon beginning its journey across the surface of the sun. When we arrived at the university, all of the staff and students from the science departments were out looking at the eclipse, so we joined them.

When we went into the chemistry lab, we were given a safety briefing and an introduction to what we would be doing in the day. Our students were allocated to a PhD student who would work with them for the day, supporting their learning. Many photos were taken of the safety aspects of a working chemistry laboratory to provide evidence for BTEC assignments about laboratory design and health and safety in the laboratory that will be completed by the BTEC students next year. Many photos were also taken of the students completing the practical tasks as evidence for their assignment on separating and purifying substances.

Students worked in a fume cupboard to prepare samples of various substances, and then to test and improve their purity. Students were able to carry out techniques such as Thin Layer Chromatography and Spectroscopy that we are unable to do in school due to the cost of the equipment.

It was a lovely day, weather wise, and we ate outside one of the university cafes during the lunch break. When we returned to the laboratory, there was a chance to accompany the PhD students to their working environments and see the different types of laboratory, equipment and working conditions that scientists experience. They also shared information about the research they are currently undertaking and how it will be important to the world in the future. One example of this was trying to produce a polymer that would be strong enough and stretchy enough to be used in the place of broken tendons and ligaments sustained in injuries or accidents.

The day was very enjoyable and the BTEC scientists successfully completed their assignments. The AS chemists experienced a good taste of what it would be like if they decided to study a science, and chemistry in particular, at university.



Goodbye Miss
Thomas

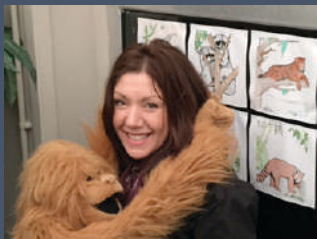


I first came to Woodrush as a trainee teacher in 1998. I worked with the amazing, and always missed, Jeff Hussey as my mentor and I successfully completed my teacher training. After spending just over 7 years in another school, the opportunity to return to Woodrush came up. It was Jeff who told me about the opportunity at a mentor meeting at The University of Birmingham. He had inspired me to take up mentoring myself and I saw him each year at these meetings.

I returned to Woodrush at Easter in 2006 and have been here ever since. I have stayed involved with training new teachers and I am proud that I have helped to mentor most of the current science department at the start of their careers.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Woodrush and will be sad to go and leave so many good friends and happy memories. Some highlights have been the Christmas assemblies (with Mr Hall) and Science Club 7 performances (Reach for the Stars and Don't Stop me Now), sports day (commentating and presenting), all of the school musicals I have been involved with; and getting to recruit some excellent dancers to my dance company. I loved having the chance to teach GCSE Dance in my last two years at Woodrush and am very proud of the achievements everyone I have taught in dance and science over the years.

Stay happy.
Miss Thomas :-)



YEAR 13 A LEVEL Biology Trip to Twycross Zoo

On Monday 9th March, Mrs. Bishop and I took the Year 13 biologists to Twycross Zoo, The World Primate centre to study animal behaviour and adaptations. Students were able to observe over 20 different species of primates including apes, bonobos, gibbons and chimpanzees and took part in a lecture about animal behaviour by one of the zoologists.

Students then observed the primates to see which behavioural traits are either inherited, social or environmental. Students also got to see elephants, giraffes, and snow leopards amongst many more. A very enjoyable but cold day!!!

Miss Hollingworth

Biology Challenge

In March Year 9 and Year 10 triple science students completed the Biology Challenge set by the Society of Biology. We have just got back the results and they have done fantastically! 10 pupils received a bronze award and 2 pupils received the hard to get gold award.

Bronze Award Winners:

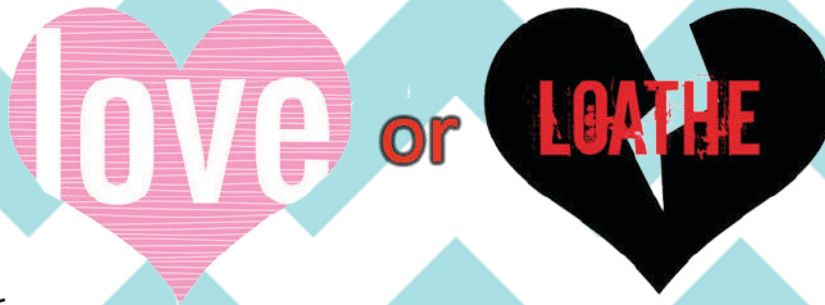
Vlada H
Shannon T-P
Cameron G
Chris M
Alanna B
Adam C
Will D
Pete W



Gold Award Winners:

Maisy H
Louisa W

Well done all - this is a fabulous achievement.



Arachnophobia is the fear of spiders (Arachno meaning spider, phobia meaning fear) and Astrophilia is the love of astronomy (astro meaning astronomy, philia meaning love), but can you work out what the following are the love or loathing of?

Cynophila
Claustrophobia
Clinophilia
Dentophobia
Dendrophilia
Equinophobia
Photophilia
Genophobia

Logophilia
Heliophobia
Pogonophilia
Isolophobia
Bibliophilia
Melissophobia
Ceraunophilia



GCSE Health and Social Baby Programme

Year 9 students were asked to participate in the "Ready or Not" baby programme, which is designed to allow young people to experience what caring for a baby actually entails. Parenting is quite hard work at times and it requires a good deal of time and energy to meet the demands of a baby, which means being on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The "Ready or Not" programme designed to give students a glimpse of how life will change for them when a baby arrives. It allows students to learn:

- Babies cry for different reasons and it can be frustrating to determine what type of care they need.
- It is difficult to get a full night's sleep when there is a new baby around.
- Parents are not free to do whatever they like, whenever they want unless they make arrangements for the baby to be looked after.
- Babies can be cute and fun to play with
- The baby's needs come before anything else
- Feeding, holding, changing nappies and giving baby love are vital elements of having a baby

The baby programme is voluntary and my year 9 students were asked to sign up if they wished to be involved. As I teach a large percentage of girls there was an immediate rush to sign up and there was also a great deal of excitement about the prospect of 'being a mum' for the day. The girls were given their 'baby' to look after over a 24 hour period and they were asked to keep a care log of this time. Each girl left me every morning with big smiles on their faces and returned to me the following morning looking tired, unhappy and glad to hand them back, often with the words "Please take it back, I am so tired and it kept me up all night!". A large percentage of the girls who had been keen to have a baby have since changed their minds and decided that it might be better to wait until they are much older before they think about having a baby.

These are the things they said in their feedback...

I thought it was going to be a walk in the park and couldn't see what all the fuss was about...I hated the baby when it cried and it got louder and louder and drove me insane. I am never going to have a baby till I am older and ready.

I put the panic key in because it would not stop crying and I hate babies!



Goodbye Miss Graham

I just wanted to take this opportunity to say goodbye to all the Woodrush students and staff. When I started as Head of Humanities in January 2012, I was apprehensive but everyone made me feel so welcome and I soon realised that I had made the right decision in coming here. It was one of the hardest decisions I have ever had to make when I accepted the offer of a new job which would mean having to leave Woodrush at the end of this year. The staff and students here work so hard and deserve to be outstanding; I look forward to hearing about your future successes in years to come. I will never forget my time here at Woodrush – I have so many fond memories and have made so many great friends. In particular I will miss the humanities team who have made my job such an enjoyable one and a big shout out to my Year 10s who I know will do really well in their GCSEs next year – it's been emotional!!!

Gonna miss you all,

Miss Graham. xx



Holocaust Survivor visits Woodrush

On the 16th of April 2015, a holocaust survivor came into Woodrush to share her experiences of living in a concentration camp during World War Two. It was extremely interesting, although very hard to hear. You could really feel her sorrow when she was speaking.

The woman was called Joanna Millan and she was put into a concentration camp along with her mother. She was aged three, her father and grandmother had already died due to the holocaust. Although she went with her mother, she barely ever saw her, and had to grow up without any adults. She grew up with a small group of children, each looking after each other. They formed really close bonds and she said they were almost like 'family'.

Living in the camp was hard; she often saw dead bodies and illnesses spread through the camp quickly. She fell ill with a lot of life threatening diseases, but managed to survive without any medication. Her mother, however, wasn't so lucky.



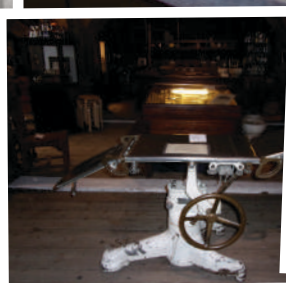
GCSE History Medicine Through Time Trip

On the last Thursday before the May half term holiday, Year 9 set out for a Victorian medical adventure to London.

After a long journey down on a hot sunny day, we finally arrived at the Old Operating Theatre at London Bridge (one of the oldest surviving operating theatres in the world). Here a 'Victorian surgeon' demonstrated surgical procedures from the 19th Century. The museum guides also took us on a tour of public health around the area, including a visit to the world famous Guy's Hospital.

We then headed back to the coach and across London to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons. The collection was purchased in 1799 and given to the Royal College. Here we saw some incredible medical artefacts including a skeleton from one of the world's tallest men and jars full of strange specimens!

It really was a fascinating day. Thanks to Miss Brookes for organising it for us and for Mr Hammond, Mrs Hatton and Mr Ferne for joining us on the day!
Miss Graham.



Although the camp wasn't a death camp, her mother died of a deadly illness inside the camp. Her body was burnt and her ashes ended up being thrown into a river.

When the war was over, she was taken to Britain with the group of children she grew up with. They all lived in a big house together, until she was fostered. Her foster parents didn't like to tell people that she was Jewish so she had to keep a very low profile about the fact she was a German Jew. She also said that one of the hardest things about coming to Britain was that she then had to take orders from adults, which never really happened in the camp as her 'group' of friends were often left to their own devices.

The reason she wanted to talk to us was because she thinks it's important that all genocides, not only the holocaust, are talked about to make sure people don't forget the horrific effect of them. I, along with lots of people, feel that these things need to be discussed to make sure they don't happen again...even though the still do.

Everyone who listened to Mrs Millan's talk is very grateful for her sharing her difficult experiences to us, and we all want to say thank you to her for sharing her experiences. - Joseph R



Goodbye Miss Brookes

Although it has only been two years I have been here Woodrush, it feels like much longer than that. I have built up such wonderful relationships with students and staff alike and I can honestly say that making the decision to leave was an extremely difficult one!

I could not have asked for a better school to start my teaching career and it truly is down to the students and support from colleagues that I have gained the skills to be able to move onto my new position as 'Deputy Head of History' at my new school. I will miss so many friendly faces and take away with me lots of fond memories. I feel like I should bow out with an inspirational quote.

So in my parting words I will use the timeless words of Walt Disney "If you can dream it, you can do it." So keep dreaming everyone and enjoy your years at Woodrush!

Miss Brookes



On Wednesday 29th April we had the opportunity to join a group of sixth form students from all over the West Midlands on a day trip to Auschwitz with the Holocaust Educational Trust.

The day trip to Poland was incredibly moving as we were first guided around a Jewish Cemetery this dated back to long before the Holocaust but was completely reconstructed after the war as the Nazis had used the gravestones for paving; white painted numbers marked each stone as a method of documentation during their return to the graveyard. Only one grave was dated more recently than the Second World War, that of one Jew who had returned to the town of Oświęcim. We learnt that others had been wise to stay away as, aside from the obvious bad memories associated with the town which contained the former Concentration camps, the cemetery has been subjected to much vandalism even within the last decade with spray painted anti-Semitic propaganda, causing the gate to the cemetery to be left locked.



We were then guided around Auschwitz I and Auschwitz-Birkenau: two concentration camps run by the Nazis during World War II. Auschwitz I was primarily used to house non-Jewish prisoners such as political and religious opponents to the Nazi regime, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses and Prisoners of War; this was the 'nicer' of the camps: the lesser of two evils. The camp was situated literally in the town and the well-known gate 'Arbeit Macht Frei' meaning 'Work will set you free' greeted us as we entered the camp,

which was much smaller than we had expected and comprised mainly of brick buildings.



Auschwitz- Birkenau was possibly the most shocking place we visited. Purpose-built for extermination, the camp was large and extremely exposed to the elements. The iconic entrance of the train track underneath the watchtower was visible as we approached, and we had the privilege of climbing the tower and viewing the camp from above. During their retreat, the Nazis blew up the gas chambers of Birkenau, and burnt the wooden huts designed for horses, but used to sleep hundreds of Jews to the ground. However, the platform where the Jews would be sorted into workers and those to be immediately gassed was still there to be seen, and the walk from the platform to the rubble of the gas chambers made us appreciate how tired they would have been, having finally escaped the train they would likely have been crammed into for days, yet completely unaware of the fate which awaited them. The ruins themselves held a surprise for us, as two baby foxes lay there, using the stone as shelter.



As our day-trip drew to a close we took part in a ceremony, held by a memorial to those who died in the Holocaust and led by a Jewish leader who accompanied us. The walk back up to the entrance to Birkenau was a truly humbling one as, as Amy pointed out, we were taking the walk that thousands never had the

opportunity to: we were walking away from the gas chambers and back home.

In the event now known as the Holocaust, around 6 million Jews from all over Europe were murdered, with more dehumanised and forced to work in places such as Auschwitz. As part of the project 'Lessons From Auschwitz', it is now our responsibility to spread what we have learnt, to help others to learn from the past, and to keep the memory of those who died during the Holocaust alive. Our priority during the trip and now is to remember that each of those people were individuals like you or me.

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it. - George Santayana

Jo and Amy



Year 7 Christianity lesson in the church!

This term pupils have been exploring Christianity and thinking about the different things that Christians believe and how they worship. We were given the opportunity to do these lessons over at St Mary's church and were taught by Mr and Mrs Taylor (St Mary's dream team!). Mr and Mrs Taylor delivered some interesting lessons to the students and we were all given the opportunity to take part in some experiential learning. We had so much fun asking lots of questions. Every week was a new surprise with students discovering more and more things building on their previous knowledge. We would like to thank St Mary's Church for allowing us to take our students to the church every week and also Mr and Mrs Taylor for creating and delivering some amazing lessons and taking their time out to work with all the students in Year 7 RE.

Reported by Mrs Kaur

Year 10 trip to Dorset

On the 9th June, year 10 geography students headed off down the M5 to the Dorset coast. Our first stop, around lunchtime, was at the pretty town of Lyme Regis, a place we have been studying in lessons this year. Here the students carried out an evaluation of the effectiveness of the different sea defences and they may have also rated the different fish and chip shops whilst we were there!



After a drive along the coast we stopped off at Lulworth Cove and Stair Hole, to look at how geological processes like erosion have created these impressive landforms. We then drove on to our main destination of Swanage on the Purbeck Coast, where we stayed at the local YHA. After dinner, we had a windy game of football on the beach before it was time for lights out back at the hostel.

The next day, the real work began. The main purpose of the trip was for students to collect fieldwork data for their controlled assessment. They are investigating whether the coastal defences in Swanage are successful or not. Their data collection included measuring sand heights on the beach, asking locals and tourists their opinions on the defences and carrying out a number plate survey. Having collected their data we went on a walk to Old Harry's Rocks, another coastal landform that we have been studying in lesson. After a quick picnic lunch we made the long journey back to school and then home for a good night's sleep.



Many thanks to Mrs Bishop, Mr Moss and Mr Monk for driving and ensuring we had a great two days away.
Mrs Michell

Places of Worship year 8 trip

This term year 8's were given the opportunity to visit two places of worship; a Jewish Synagogue and Sikh Gurdwara. We started our visit to the Sikh Gurdwara, where we were met by a Sikh tour guide who allowed us all to look around the Gurdwara and even have a go at playing with some of the traditional instruments that are used during Sikh worship. We were then all taken to the Langar hall (place where food is served) and we were given lots of food to eat including chapattis, vegetable curry and another option of chips.

We then headed of the Cannon Hill Park for a quick break, after which we headed to our next place of worship which was the Jewish Synagogue. We were given a tour around the place of worship and were even allowed to touch an old Torah which was a privilege. We learnt lots about how Jews worship and the different things they wear and do. All in all a fun day where we learnt lots.

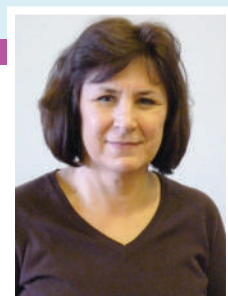
A big thank you to Mrs Kaur, Mr Hammond, Mr Ferne and Miss Martin for taking us.
Year 8 Pupil

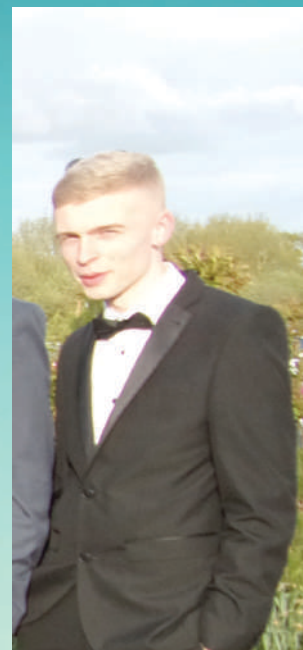
Goodbye Ms Smith

I joined Woodrush in May 1988 as a lunchtime supervisor. I was new to the area and I taught Italian cookery at Hall Green Adult Education Centre 2 evenings a week. It was a way of getting to know people in the area. The journey has taken me 27 years. I have enjoyed my time at Woodrush where I have met many interesting and caring people. I have learnt many new skills and have made many friends.

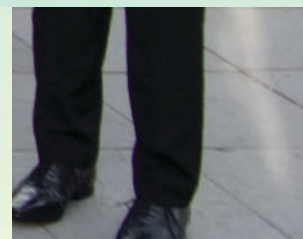
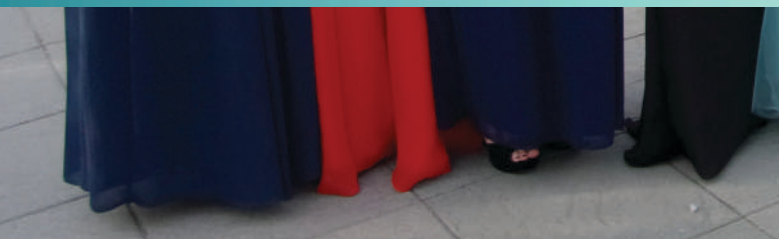
Thank you all for the opportunity and experience.

A. Smith – Teaching Assistant.





Year 11 School Prom



On Thursday 7th May the Year 11 Prom was held at the Lake at Barston, West Midland Golf Club. Students arrived in an assortment of transport including a fire engine, a camper van and various sport cars, a white Rolls Royce and stretch limousines. Prom outfits were chosen with care and suited the occasion and made everyone look really good. The weather was nice in the evening and students were able to make use of the outside facilities, which overlooked the lake, at various points to cool off or just to chat and socialise with friends. A hot finger buffet was served to students and staff early in the evening and students kept the professional photographer busy with their many requests for their keep sake Prom photographs. The DJ played some brilliant music and the dance floor was never empty during the evening and it was clear everyone, including staff, had a fabulous time. During the evening the Prom team handed out gifts to form tutors; and the Prom King and Queen, Wakas S and Grace G, were crowned and encouraged to lead the traditional slow dance, which everyone then got a partner and joined in with. The evening ended at 11:45pm and the students boarded coaches to return them to school where they moved on to their own celebration parties. Mrs Hatton



Goodbye and Good luck to Year 13

Recently we have bid a fond farewell to our Year 13 students. Staff and students met in the Sixth Form centre to look back at these students' seven years in the school. Photos and memories were shared as we all fondly remembered their time in the lower school and in the Sixth Form. This cohort of students can look back on their time with us and be very proud of their achievements. With so many of them applying to university and higher apprenticeships, we are excited to see what the future holds for them.

We wish this fantastic group of students every success in their exams and we look forward to seeing them again at the Sixth Form Prom and on examination results day in August. We also look forward to hearing about all their successes in the future.

Goodbye Year 13 and please make sure you stay in touch.

W Sixth



Apprenticeships - a rewarding way ahead!

As part of our Information, Advice and Guidance programme with Woodrush Sixth Form, on 23rd April we invited Helena Baxter from HP Consultancy, Worcestershire, to run a workshop with the small number of our Year 13 students who are not applying to Higher Education. Helena ran an excellent hour session where she discussed

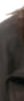
- the value of apprenticeships
- the transferable skills developed
- the variety of apprenticeships available
- the varying levels - up to and including Higher Apprenticeships (equivalent to degree level) - and their value to the future lives of young people.

Helena showed our sixthformers where to find the information and how to search online for vacancies. She then gave some one-to-one advice to students who looked at 'live' vacancies in both Worcestershire and Birmingham.

The support she offered our students was invaluable. They left inspired by the choice available and knew how, and where, to both search and apply for their important first opportunity!

For further information please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide>

Mr. Cooper



School Sleepover

Ever wonder what goes on in school after dark? Are the legendary tales of a ghost haunting the Maths block really true? Can ghostly screams really be heard echoing down 'A corridor' when there is a full moon?

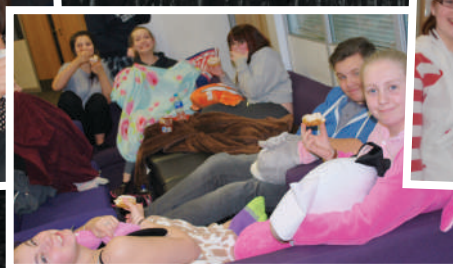
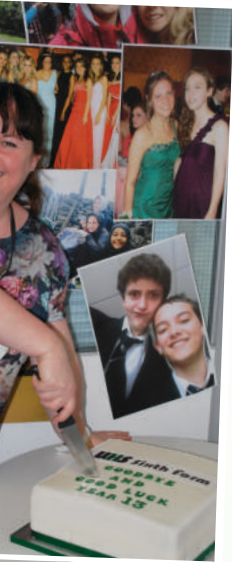
On Friday 13th March a group of around 40 brave Sixth Form students decided to find out. Armed with lots of sugar based midnight snacks, and lots of enthusiasm, the students embarked on a night of ghost walks, games of hide and seek around the school, quizzes and party games.

For the ghost walk, the school's site staff helped with the sourcing of some carefully placed props around the school. These included a life size witch, fake rats, a scary clown and, probably most disturbing of all, a model of a kind of goblin baby. Imagine walking through the top corridor in the Maths block at midnight in the dark when, all of a sudden, a model of a severed head hanging from a chain from the ceiling swings inches in front of your face! On the night itself the screams that could be heard echoing down the corridor did not belong to ghosts, rather they belonged to the students themselves.

The night itself was not just about terrifying the students. Lots of fun was had with the superb quiz put together by Amy (Head Girl) and George (Head Boy). The quiz had numerous rounds, including one on Disney characters, a guess the Facebook status round and a hilarious guess the taste round, which involved blindfolded students eating things like cold sardines and a spoonful of mustard.

Overall, it was a brilliant night and hardly anyone slept a wink! A huge thank you to Amy and George for the quiz and all the support offered by Heather (Deputy Head Girl) and Jordan (Deputy Head Boy). An enormous thank you must also go to Ms Ashman, Mrs Peters, Mrs Bishop and Mr James for sacrificing their Friday night to stay over in the school with the students.

By 8am Saturday, all the staff and students had left the school. All that remained from the night before were the screams that echoed down 'A corridor'. The question is . . . who did these screams really belong to?



Altancy nning

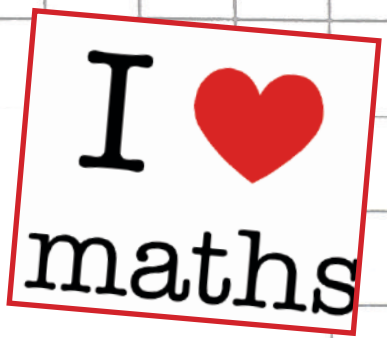
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Comic Relief

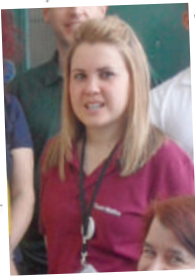
For Comic Relief this year the Sixth Form whole heartedly involved themselves in the Disney dress up theme. Students dressed up as Snow White and the Seven (well actually six) Dwarfs, Anna from 'Frozen', Jessie from 'Toy Story' 2 and 3, Flynn Rider from 'Tangled' and Carl from 'UP', to name but a few. There was also a Disney quiz and a Mad Hatter's themed cake sale in the Common Room to help raise money for Comic Relief. At break-time staff joined students in the Sixth Form Centre to sample the range of delicious cakes that both staff and students had baked. Thank you to staff for the generosity in not just buying cakes but also for their efforts in baking some of the cakes as well. Once again the Sixth Form students did themselves proud with their fundraising efforts. This year they managed to raise over £500 towards the school total. A massive thanks is extended to all the Sixth Form students for their efforts in helping to raise such a significant amount of money.



Junior Maths Challenge

On Thursday 30th April thirty year 7 and 8 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. I am pleased to say that 8 pupils managed to achieve certificates. Well done to Jack in year 7 and Shivan and Fran in year 8 who achieved Bronze certificates, Oliver and Adam in year 7 and Ellis in year 8 who achieved Silver certificates. Well done to Michael who also received a Silver certificate and Best in Year 7, and a massive well done to Alex in year 8 who received a Gold certificate and Best in School.

Mrs Dawson



Goodbye Miss Rigley

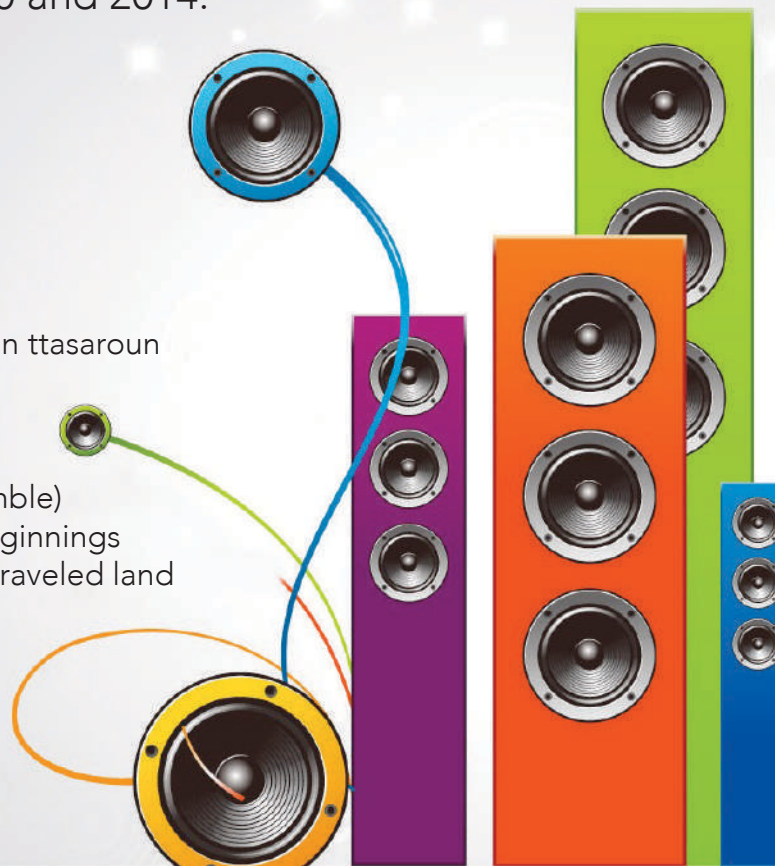
Having spent the first 6 years of my teaching career here at Woodrush I feel that I have learnt from the best (staff and students). It has been an incredible and fun 6 years and I will be taking many brilliant memories with me. Woodrush is an amazing school, and anyone who gets to spend any length of time here is truly lucky. Wishing everyone lots of success and happiness
Miss Rigley X

GUESS THE SONG

You have been given the lyrics of the first 10 words of a song which reached the number 1 spot between 2010 and 2014.

Can you work out what the song is?

- 1) Now and then I think of when we were together
- 2) I threw a wish in the well, Don't ask me
- 3) R.I.P. to the girl you used to see, Her days
- 4) How'd you think I feel when you call my name
- 5) Oppa Gangnam Style, Gangnam Style, Najeneun ttasaroun inganjeogin yeoja, Keopi
- 6) Aren't you somethin' to admire? 'Cause your shine is somethin'
- 7) Let's get ready to rumble, (Let's get ready to rumble)
- 8) Like the legend of the Phoenix, All ends with beginnings
- 9) We're a thousand miles from comfort, we have traveled land
- 10) Taking me higher than I've ever been before, I'm holding



Let the cook off BEGIN!!!



We believe it is very important to encourage and develop creativity in young people and this includes creativity in the kitchen. Cooking amongst the younger generation is a growing interest and a valuable life skill.

Alliance in Partnership (AiP) are keen to work with schools to help develop children's interest in food. Young people from Woodrush High School were invited to take part in our 'Young Chef of the Year' competition.

Contestants were required to produce some superb quality food. Students were then judged on their preparation, planning, presentation and taste of their chosen dish.

Students were encouraged to present their dish in a restaurant style for the competition, however, as the winning dish will be used on AiP's menu, it will be tweaked to meet set government nutritional standards.

The finals were held within the catering facilities at Worcester College of Technology. The contestants prepared and cooked their dish for an expert judging panel.

School governors, teachers and the contestants family members were invited to the final. The event was professionally video recorded and photographed, and the local press were also given a personal invitation to attend.

The aim was to inspire pupils to be creative in the kitchen as well as demonstrate an understanding of factors such as basic food hygiene, awareness of seasonal produce and availability of ingredients. Commercial costing and profit margins had to

Design & Tech

be calculated and students also had to follow the nutritional guidelines and Government standards adhered to by AiP.

Each student was asked to create a dish which will be used on the AiP lunch menu however, contestants were asked to slightly adapt their dish initially to suit a restaurant style display.

The finals took place on Wednesday 20th May 2015 at Worcester College of Technology. The core objective for the Chef of the Year is that students, teachers and parents all enjoy a fun, creative and informative activity. We encourage students to ask questions with regard to the catering industry and, not only to show an interest in cooking, but to also understand the process chefs have to consider when producing everyday dishes we all enjoy.



Goodbye Miss Harris

I would just like to say a huge thank you to everybody at Woodrush High School. The time I have spent working at this fantastic school has been wonderful. I have met and worked with incredibly inspiring staff and pupils, and have made some amazing lifelong friends. I am sad to be leaving, but I take with me fond memories that will make me smile for years to come.

I wish you all the best of luck in the future and look forward to hearing and reading stories of design, creativity and innovation from the talented people at Woodrush.

Miss Harris

Fashion, Embroidery and Stitch Show

This term the design and technology young textile designers and fashionistas were whisked away for a day of inspiration, research and creativity!

Students attended the Sewing for Pleasure, Hobbycrafts and Fashion Embroidery and Stitch shows all held at the Birmingham NEC.

The day consisted of live workshops, industry demonstration of new and innovative textiles skills and the opportunity for students to meet and chat with famous people from the creative world. All of this sandwiched between live fashion shows showcasing the world of GCSE and A-level students from around the UK.

This was a creative and inspiring trip which was enjoyed by all.

Goodbye Miss Colbourne

I have had a fantastic time at Woodrush over the past 3 years! My husband and I moved here in 2012 from London and we have had a great time. I have enjoyed working in the design technology department with Miss Harris, Ms Goswami, Mr Hodgetts and Mr Sa'a. I have learnt a lot from the students here and will take very fond memories with me when I leave.

My husband and I are moving to Thailand in August as I am teaching in an International School. I am going to be teaching design technology and he will be working as a chef in a hotel. We are planning on seeing lots of formula 1 races in Asia and Australia- oh and working very hard! I wish to say thank you for the great time I have had here and I wish all my students the best for the future.

ขอขอบคุณและลา

(Thank you and goodbye in Thai)

WOODRUSH MOCK ELECTIONS 2015

On Friday 8th May, as well as it being Global Enterprise Day, Woodrush held mock general elections for all students from Years 7 to 10 to take part in. In form time the previous week students learnt about five anonymous political parties and what their manifestos were (the policies they would make if they get into power).

The hall was turned into a polling station for the day and forms took it in turn to visit the polling station to cast their vote. We had polling booths and ballot boxes kindly put together by members of Woodrush staff. All students voted – although they were allowed to tick the 'no vote' box if they wished to abstain from voting.

We wanted students to learn that by voting you have the chance to: make decisions about things such as the minimum wage, working conditions, holidays, education and to try and encourage people to think about what policies they were voting for – not just the party or the person.

At the end of the day a group of staff and 6th form volunteers came to the hall to begin the 'big count'. The results of the elections and the turnout were as follows:

92% of you voted in the mock elections on Friday...

...this compares to just 66% of the population who voted in the General Election last Thursday!

4% of the votes were spoiled.

Now for the results...

Party A – 176 votes

Party D – 140 votes

Party B – 92 votes

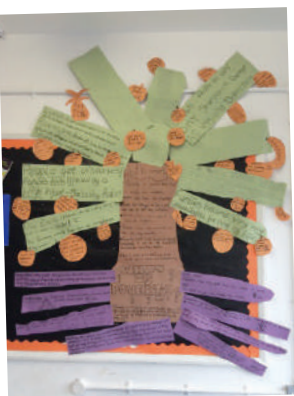
Party C – 79 votes

Party E – 64 votes

Thanks to all staff and students who helped out with the mock elections and counting votes.

Special thanks to Kathryn P in Year 13 who put the manifestos and information together.

Miss Graham.



8L1'S ASPIRE DAY

On Friday 8th May, we took part in Aspire Day. Throughout the day we explored many aspects of poverty and fairtrade. We did many activities during the day including: designing our own fairtrade products; looking deeper into how fairtrade helps the effects that poverty has caused; as well as creating a poverty tree, which is displayed on the wall in H7.

The poverty tree enlightens you about what poverty is. The roots show us how poverty is caused. The trunk explains what poverty is. The branches are the effects of poverty. The fruit have solutions to poverty on them.

Francesca W and Holly D, 8L1.



Our super talented sixth form linguists have taken on roles as Woodrush Language Ambassadors, and have been over to see Coppice students recently! In April, 6 of our year 12 French A level students visited Year 2 and Year 6 students to teach them about Easter around the world. It sounds as though the Coppice pupils had great fun, and our students really enjoyed the experience, and several have asked to go back in to our local primary schools to do similar work and support the language lessons there. Interested in doing something similar? See Mrs Croxall!

10 things you didn't know about languages...

1. The 10 most spoken languages in the world are Mandarin Chinese, English, Spanish, Hindi, Arabic, Bengali, Russian, Portuguese, Japanese, German and French, in that order.
2. About 7,000 languages are spoken around the world, of which 2,500 are in danger of extinction.
3. The most recent language to become extinct was Klallam, traditionally spoken on Vancouver Island. The last speaker died on February 4, 2014.
4. The Oxford English Dictionary lists meanings for 414,800 word forms in the English language...
5. ...though counting different forms of the same word separately, the Global Language Monitor identified 1,013,913 words in English in 2012.
6. A new word in the English language is created about every 98 minutes.
7. In the !Xoo language of Botswana and Namibia, there are 112 sounds. English has about 40.
8. About 70 per cent of words in !Xoo (including !Xoo itself) begin with one of 83 types of click.
9. The 19 As in Malaysian Scrabble is the highest number of one Scrabble letter in any language.
10. The Rotokas language of Papua New Guinea has a 12-letter alphabet, the world's smallest.

Calling all travel bugs!



Are you aged 15-19 and want to see the world? Do you want to get out there, experience new cultures and meet new people? If so, there are many opportunities out there for you!

For example, the Rotary Club organise a fantastic Youth Exchange. With both long and short term programmes, you could spend anything from 3 weeks up to a year in the country of your choice, living with families and really experiencing daily life there - you could even go during the summer holidays!

If you are 18+ and fancy giving something back, then have a look at the schemes ICYE offer. They are an international charity that organise volunteering placements in 30 different countries across Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe. You can choose the project you want to work in, whether it be working at a conservation project in Costa Rica or helping at a school in Uganda, there's bound to be something that interests you!

If you are interested in either of these schemes (and there are many more!) then have a look at their websites: youthexchange.com or icye.org.uk Alternatively speak to Miss Kent - she spent a year in Argentina on the Rotary Youth Exchange and six months working for ICYE in Ecuador!



French and Spanish Idioms

Here are some idioms with their literal translation and the English equivalent in brackets.

French

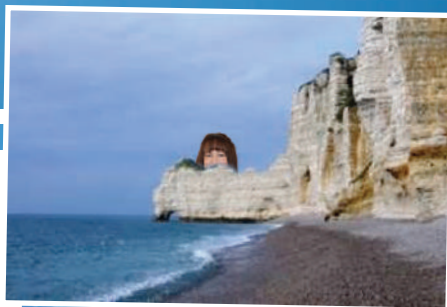


- Avoir le cafard** - to have the cockroach. (to be down in the dumps)
- C'est la fin des haricots** - it's the end of the beans. (it's the last straw)
- Coûter les yeux de la tête** - to cost the eyes from the head (to cost an arm and a leg)
- Se mettre le doigt dans l'œil** - to put your finger in your eye (to put your foot in it)
- C'est la goutte d'eau qui fait déborder le vase** - it's the drop of water that made the vase overflow (the straw that broke the camel's back)

Spanish



- Estar como una cabra** - to be like a goat (to be a bit crazy)
- Estar más sano que una pera** - to be healthier than a pear (to be as fit as a fiddle)
- Echar agua al mar** - to throw water into the sea (to be pointless)
- Tomar el pelo** - to take the hair (to pull someone's leg)
- Tiene más lana que un borrego** - He has more wool than a lamb (He has lots of cash)



COMING SOON...

Details of the next French trip to the Opal Coast July 2015

See Mrs Croxall for details!!!

Year 7 Woodrush Students Read to Succeed

'Instead of watching so much TV, I now read' – This statement would make any English teacher weep with joy. This comment was made by one of Woodrush's year 7 students. And it gets better... another claimed that they now found reading 'really fun'. Although we would like to take all the credit for inspiring such a love of literature and zest for novels, we have to report that the majority of year 7s great reading progress is down to the successful implementation of Accelerated Reader for every student in the cohort.

Woodrush can confidently state that a truly positive reading culture has been established in year 7 and we are thrilled to be able to roll it out to those moving up from year 6, in September, as well as allowing the current year group to continue the programme into year 8. The system works because, once the students have taken an initial Star test, their reading age is calculated and they are then

guided to a range of books that are of a suitable level to improve their skills while maintaining their interest, establishing confident and engaged readers. After each book, a short quiz is taken on an iPad and students are keen to admit that they 'like the challenge of the quizzes'. Most books are AR levelled and the colour coding of all the books in the library has enabled students to 'look at different authors'.



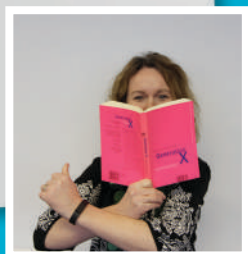
Our year 7 students are convinced that Accelerated Reader has helped them 'improve their levels in both reading and writing' and the data backs this up with some students improving their reading ages by two years in the first six months. Many said that their vocabulary had improved 'significantly' and this was beneficial in all subjects across the school: 'I didn't enjoy reading before but now I really do. I have read twenty books since September. Books are interesting. The new words I have learned have helped in all of my lessons. Accelerated Reader is good because I know which books to choose and they are at the right level'. The introduction of Drop Everything And Read across the curriculum has also given students an extra boost to help them reach their goal of twenty minutes reading every day.

Students have been rewarded with certificates and Accelerated Reader pencils, with classes competing with each other to read the most words and achieve 100% in quizzes. The competition to be 'millionaires' has been intense; eight students have reached the giddy heights of reading over one million words (some over two million!). It has been a pleasure to see the students in the library each week and Mrs Robertson (our wonderful librarian) has compared the number of books taken out by year 7 students: last year 190 books – this year, 1,350. Fabulous!

Goodbye Miss Heggs

Should I stay or should I go? (**rhetorical question**). Therein lies the rub (**literary reference**). The decision to leave Woodrush was painful, challenging and traumatic (**rule of three**) and, if we're being honest, (**hyperbole**), my head said 'yes' but my heart cried 'no!' (**personification, repetition and contrast**). The English department is the best (**superlative**), the staff superb (**alliteration**) and the students are like little gems (**simile**). I will miss you (**modal promise**). Honestly (**single adverb for effect**).

Miss (**Heggs**)



Bakeoff!

This term, the English and technology departments joined forces in a project aimed at promoting literacy across the curriculum. Brilliant Year 7 bakers learnt how to follow a recipe to make and decorate their own cupcakes. In true 'Bake Off' style, they reviewed each other's cakes, practising their various descriptive techniques. Here are some of their comments:



- 'It looked like heaven.'
- 'I thought the cake was scrumptious.'
- 'Heavenly, amazing and delicious!'
- 'It was decorated with chocolate Nutella swirls that looked like waves.'
- 'It was decorated with a flower of icing.'
- 'The cake was simple and white with divine baby-blue icing neatly laid on top.'
- 'It was a bit sweet. However, it had a superb taste.'
- 'The cake was a chocolate explosion.'
- 'Yummy, sweet, with a light touch. It tasted like vanilla ice-cream.'
- 'Fantastically detailed icing.'



BECKETTS FARM

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WORLD
BOOK
DAY

5 MARCH 2015

A BIG, HAPPY, BOOKY
CELEBRATION OF READING

WORLD BOOK DAY fest



Excitement was building in the week running up to World Book Day. Our Head Girl and Head Boy, Amy and George, prepared the way, giving away book prizes during assembly. They hosted a book-themed game devised by two talented book club members, Oliver and Morgan. Book club was busy questioning our Heads of House about their reading habits to create film clips to be used in the quiz. The quiz team places filled up rapidly and eager students were seen hunting around school to find clues in order to win golden tickets to be in the audience for the inter-house literary quiz.

Library & English

World Book Day



Exclusive golden tickets were to be won to watch the quiz, where the four houses battled it out to prove they knew the most about books and authors. A treasure hunt was all it took to win a golden ticket and the audience was filled with excited year 7 and 8s.

The quiz teams answered questions that got harder and harder. However it wasn't just the quiz teams that took part, the audience did too. Members of book club had asked the heads of house questions and the audience had to remember what they said. If answered correctly they won a chocolate. In the end Brindley and Cadbury tied and it came down to a deciding question. Overall Cadbury won, each team member received a prize of a National Book Token.

In book club the members were asked to bring a 'book in a jar'. They had to guess what books were represented by the objects in the jar. The students with the two most creative jars won a prize of a book of their choice.

By Heather, Year 9

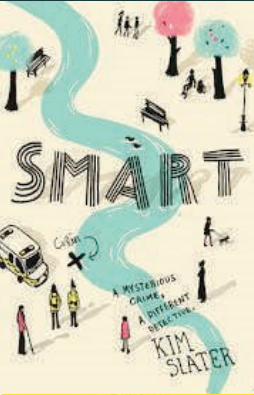


007 BOND NIGHT



Young people and their parents were invited to an evening at the Youth and Community Centre to celebrate the completion of the Bond with Books project. This was an opportunity to chill out and get to know each other. Students were able to show off the work they have been doing on the latest Young James Bond book; whilst parents were able to take a look at the choice and levels of books available for their children to succeed with Accelerated Reader. The Youth Committee provided the refreshments which included a specially designed James Bond cake. Adults and young people joined in playing table tennis and snooker and Bradley's legendary logical thinking made him the winner of the "who is this baby?" game. It was a wonderfully relaxed atmosphere, it was great to see such supportive parents and get to know the students outside of the classroom.





Our trip to the Teen Book Awards

We volunteered for the teen book awards for new experiences and the chance to read genres of books we thought we would never read. It all started when year 8 students went up into the library to take part in "speed dating". There was a lot of choice and there were books all over the tables. That's when we had a piece of paper and 5 minutes to rate different books on each table. We looked at the covers, read a little bit of the first couple of pages and the blurb, then ranked them from our least favourite to top favourite. Six books got chosen for the shortlist they were: The Killing Woods, Say Her Name (my favourite!), Night Runner, Thirteen, Smart and finally Shadow of the Wolf. Following this about 20 of us met weekly to read the books. Most of us managed to read a couple of the books and some read all six!

Fourteen of us got chosen to go to Teen Book Awards ceremony. It was so exciting. We went to the Worcestershire council building to listen to author of Say Her Name, James Dawson talking about his writing and to take part in the quiz about the books. We travelled by mini bus; the four people on the quiz team (Leah, Cameron, Faye and Joe) used this time to go over the questions they thought would come up and the answers that they thought were right.

When we first got there we all sat down to listen to James Dawson speak. He was telling us about different books that he had written and books that we would be interested in if we liked Say Her Name. We also got to ask him a few questions. For example when asked "what is your favourite urban legend?" He replied "ones that have a grain of truth in them." The quiz followed this. Our team really enjoyed taking part. They did really well and came second.

After lunch the result of the vote was announced. The winning book was Say Her Name. That is such a brilliant book. Well done to James Dawson for writing the winning book and we all congratulate him. His book was scary and drew the readers in and that's why I think he won the vote.

This is what some of the group had to say about it. Faye loves reading; she said she "wanted to read something that she had never read before". Sian had not read a book for ages and she "wanted to get back into reading". You should definitely volunteer if you get the chance to take part in the Teen Book Award next year. It's great fun.

Keyra, Year 8



Dennis the Menace

Budding artists in Year 7 were invited to a Puffin Virtual Live author talk and draw-along with Steve Butler and Steve May, the author and illustrator of the Dennis the Menace books. As well as finding out about the inspiration behind the dastardly menacing in the books, they learned how to draw Gnasher just like a professional cartoonist.

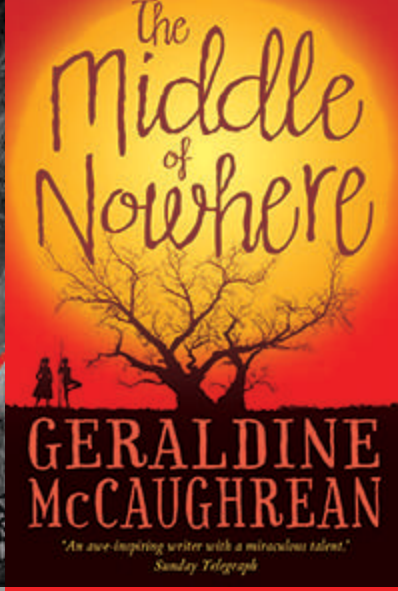


Library



Tinder by Sally Gardner
Reviewed by Lu

Tinder is a book about a boy called Otto. It combines mythology and real elements of history from the 17th century. Despite being based on a fairy-tale called The Tinderbox by Hans Christian Anderson, it is quite dark and not suitable for young children. I liked the fact that it had pictures, the monochrome illustrations add to the mysterious quality of the text. It's unusual, intriguing and thought provoking; however I didn't like the ending as some of the things were not fully explained.



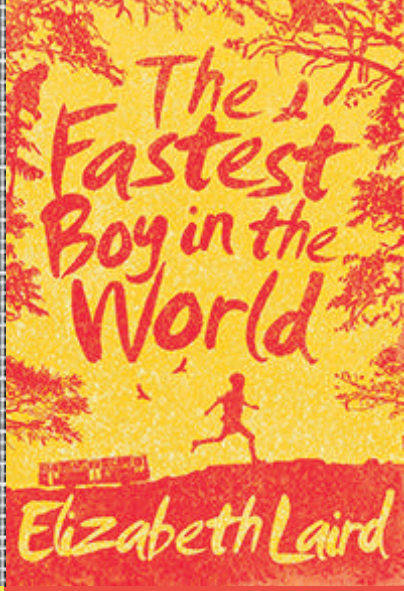
The Middle of Nowhere by Geraldine McCaughrean
Reviewed by Shannon

This book starts off really weird and very, very strange. It is set in nineteenth century Australia which is what I find really interesting. The first chapter was called Camels in the Yard, which you understand later on in the book. The book is slightly confusing at points, and I got lost a bit about half way through, but I did enjoy it. After the first few chapters, when you manage to figure out everything that has happened to her family, you realise that it's really sad. For a while in the book you think that poor Comity has seen the worst, but it gets much worse and you wonder whether her pain will ever end. It's worth reading to find other people's opinions of racism and how they overcome it to bring a community together.



More Than This by Patrick Ness
Reviewed by Josh

More Than This is an action packed adventure full of mystery and suspense (if a little like The Matrix). The main character is a little mysterious and you do not know his full story until the end, which only adds to the empathy that you feel for the character. Although there are very few characters in the book, all of them show some type of dark back story that makes you tear up just from reading them. Definitely worth reading; the writing is so good that at points in the book you get the feeling of actually being there.



The Fasted Boy in the World by Elizabeth Laird
Reviewed by Jacob

This is a brilliant story of how family are important to each other at a time they all need someone to comfort them, and how one person's dream can affect a whole family for the better.

This book is about Solomon who wants to be a great runner just like his grandpa. After the best moment of his life so far his grandpa dies, but Solomon still continues with his dream of becoming an Olympic runner. This story is good because it shows how someone's hobby can turn into a career. I would recommend you read this book because it is really good for everybody

Book Club Student Reviews

In the weird and wonderful book club of Woodrush High School we have been reading and reading and reading some more! We have had lots of disagreements over which books are good and which books are bad.

Some of the members of book club have been speeding away on the reading list and have finished them all! Others have been slow coaches

and have only read one or two books. We have loved reading them.

One of the highlights of shadowing the Carnegie medal was watching a live screening of the awards ceremony; we gathered in the library in anticipation waiting to see who would win.

First to come was the Kate Greenaway Award for best illustrated book, which was won by William Gill for Shackleton's Journey .

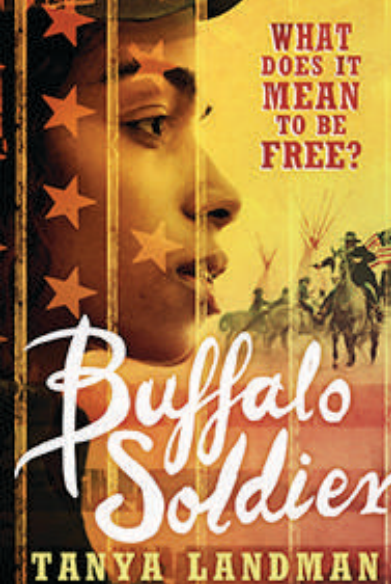
This dyslexic illustrator is the youngest winner since 1960. The Carnegie winner, which was announced next, took us all by surprise; it went to Tanya Landman for Buffalo Soldier. Her speech focused on the importance of imagination, how reading encourages empathy for others' situations and that, by cutting libraries, politicians may be trying to brainwash us!!



When Mr Dog Bites by Brian Conaghan
Reviewed by Joe

Before I start, this book is not for anyone who wants an action-packed book full of adventure and excitement. The plot is very weak; you easily know where the book is going from the moment you pick it up. However, this book is very funny. Whilst I was reading it, I often found myself laughing due to its ridiculous characters and hilarious story line. The book is based on a boy who is sixteen who has got Tourettes, who thinks he is going to die by March. His dad has 'gone to war' and he really misses him. Why won't he reply to his letters?

I really enjoyed this book, and I would recommend it to anyone who wants a book that will make them laugh. But be warned there is a lot of swearing!



Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman
Reviewed by Esther

I loved this book and couldn't put it down. It reminded me of how much freedom we get even though we think we don't have much. It is set during the American Civil War, which is a time-period that I didn't know much about. Charlotte is a slave until her master's plantation is destroyed by the Yankee army. She decides to join the army, as she thinks this is her best chance of survival, and takes on a new identity as Charlie. In the eyes of her fellow soldiers she is just as male as they are. Traumatic issues, such as rape and murder, are dealt with very well in this book; the impact that events have on Charlie are reflected in you as you read. It really made me think about what would happen and how I would feel if I was forced to act like a man and be a soldier.



Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan
Reviewed by Oliver

One Christmas, Apple's mother leaves her to live with her Grandma, whilst going to America to follow her dream of becoming an actress. Then, one day, her mother picks her up, disguised as a taxi driver, and takes her shopping. When her mother drops Apple off at her Grandma's, she leaves Apple with a difficult decision; would she like to come and live with her? Apple soon makes up her mind and decides to live with her mother. When she arrives there she soon meets her sister, Rain. Apple and Rain go on to have lots of adventures together.

This book is about family arguments, problems and changes. This book is well written and it tells a clever plot. The characters have a clear characterisation and each chapter brings a new surprise or problem. Each sentence makes you laugh, cry or be scared. This book keeps you entertained and once you start reading, you can't put it down.

I think this book is one of the best books I have ever read and I prefer it over some of my recently favourite books. This is a book that will entertain everybody and is perfect for everyone.



Cuckoo Song by Frances Hardinge
Reviewed by Heather

At first this book was a little confusing but when I got into it I started to really enjoy it. The plot was amazing; always changing and never predictable. The twist is hinted at throughout the book, however it is not until the truth is revealed at the end of the book that you realise it has been leading up to this point. The characters were well described and you feel empathy for them. They all have hidden problems but by the end of the book they have developed and flourished. You should read this book because it is exciting, mysterious and full of tension. swearing!

Overall we were very pleased with the winners and we are already looking forward to next year's announcement.

You can read more of our reviews and check out our top 3 titles on the reading barometer, which we agreed after huge discussions, on our group home page.

<http://www.carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/grouphomepages/index.php?GroupID=10635>.



Woodrush Community High School comes 3rd for ARMs Green Schools Sustainability Project Award out of 23,000 applications!

This May, Woodrush Community Farm is very pleased to announce that we were placed third as runners up in a Community Education Award in conjunction with ARM, an international company who specialise in corporate digital products. In the award we were highly commended for our social enterprise and community co-operation.

This award brilliantly highlights the hard work of both staff and student members of the farm and is an excellent achievement for all involved.

The award is comprised of five sections:

Planning:

It was mentioned that the farm has fantastic aims: to keep as many vulnerable children as possible successfully integrated into mainstream school; to bring the community, both young and elderly, together; and to encourage the growth and production of home grown produce

Structure:

The project highlighted the incredible commitment Mrs Hill provides the farm with on a daily basis, and how students take the leading role in the day to day running of the farm

Content:

The farm excelled in how its community outreach work not only covers local residents, but also local churches, businesses and multinational co-operations such as PWC who assisted us through their One Firm One Day project.

Outcomes:

These demonstrated how using a simple foundation the farm has been able to benefit a wide range of the community and school members

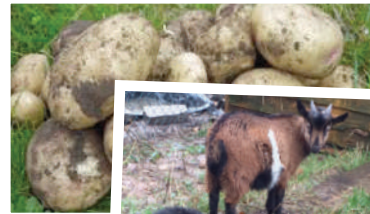
Legacy:

ARM commended our plans to extend the farm further into a sensory garden and aviary for our new Community Hub.

Coming in September: We will be capturing and observing our wildlife in the farm and school grounds with our new state of the art **WildLife camera** purchased with Positive Activities funding!

We are very proud of our farm members for achieving this incredible award and I'm sure you can see how this highlights and rewards all of their hard and continuing work- a huge thank you to Mrs Hill, as without her support the farm would not be able to continue and this award could not have been achieved.

Chloe W



New Year 7s 2015 Hello Young People!

In September, when you move into Year 7, you will be able to attend the Youth and Community Centre. We want to make your time at Woodrush enjoyable and we feel the Youth Centre aims to provide you with a fun and safe environment where you can spend time with your friends and get to try new opportunities.

You will be able to attend on a Tuesday evening from 6.30pm-8.30pm to get involved in arts, cooking, sports but you can find more information in our leaflet, on our website, Twitter and Facebook so make sure you take a look!

The Youth Centre is focused on young people. As well as our staff, we have a strong Senior Management Team and Youth Committee who help us run the centre. It is important that you can easily recognise us, so you will see us in our Youth and Community tops so do not hesitate to approach us!

We hope to see many new faces at the Youth Centre!

The Youth and Community Team



A Week in Westminster

I have always had a huge interest and passion for politics and I have always known this was what I would like to pursue in life. When I was given the opportunity to meet Sajid Javid, our local MP (and at the time secretary of state for culture, media and sport), after our youth management team were awarded the 'Speakers School Council Award', my love for politics inspired me to be more involved! After sending my CV and personal statement to his Westminster office

I quickly received a letter offering me a week of work experience in the Houses of Parliament from the 22nd to the 26th of June. In my week I will shadow Mr Javid, and his team, through his new role as the Secretary of State for business. I will learn about the political sphere, meeting other politicians and assist in the daily life of a leading secretary of State. With my early starts every morning I will be working closely with Sajids PA and office staff and hope to learn more about the pathway and life of a politician (and maybe even get the chance to speak with David Cameron!).



Life after Woodrush - Case Study

Ex student Danny Currall hasn't had time to stop after he left Woodrush last June! After his time completing his level 1 catering at school Danny was inspired to extend his catering and hospitality repertoire at Hall Green College where he has excelled. Over the past year Danny's hard work has paid off and consequently he has been given the opportunities to: expand his skills doing hotel work in Capadocia in Turkey; work in a team providing hospitality for over 100 governors and complete his level 2 food hygiene. He has therefore managed to gain incredible distinctions in all of his subjects. It is fair to say that Danny has achieved some amazing things in his time away, whilst still volunteering at the youth centre and bringing his new found skills to our young people! We are very proud to have Danny as a committee member and ex woodrush student.



Have you ever considered a career in teaching? Have you heard about School Direct?

School Direct is a school-led course that gives you the chance to learn 'on the job' in a school. It runs for one year and leads to qualified teacher status (QTS). There are also a range of different funding packages available for trainees.

Trainee teachers will also be awarded a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) by the University of Birmingham on successful completion of assignments at Masters level.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- A UK undergraduate degree or a recognised equivalent qualification
- A GCSE grade C or above in English and mathematics
- A GCSE grade C or above in a science if you are applying to teach primary or key stage 2/3 (ages 7–14)

Woodrush is currently recruiting for Maths and Physics trainee teachers!

For more information see <http://www.woodrushtsa.co.uk/> or <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/school-direct>

Or contact the Teaching School Administrator, Miss A Cotterill
teachingschool@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



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Sporting RUSH Football Academy

We are happy to announce the launch of a new Football Academy for children, operating under Woodrush Sport Centre and registered under the FA; Sporting RUSH Academy FC. Sporting RUSH Academy FC has been developed to provide children and young people with a safe and supportive environment to enjoy working as part of a team to develop their football and social skills through 'Outstanding' provision, in line with an 'Outstanding' High School.

Our mission statement is underpinned by our Sporting RUSH acronym; Respect, Unite, Succeed, Honour.

Our Football Academy opens this August to commence its first season under the Central Warwickshire Youth Football League, with the first two teams of Under 7's. We are aiming to develop an Academy that provides football at all levels from mini soccer, to youth, and finally into senior football, as the Football Academy grows. This is an exciting new venture for the Woodrush Youth, Sport and Community department, and we are looking forward to introducing our new Football Academy to the Community on our Open Night on Wednesday 8th July, 7.00pm-8.00pm.

The Woodrush Youth, Sports and Community department would also like to take the time to thank the local businesses in our Community, who have currently contributed and sponsored the Sporting RUSH Football Academy to assist us in moving forward in these early stages; Anglo Italian, Davies Timber, Fresh Media, Midlands Property Maintenance and David Jones Roofing.

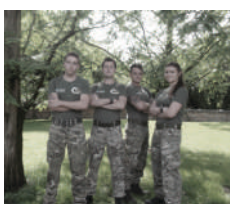
RUSH partners with Xtreme Bootcamps: Raising money to support the Community HUB – generate a healthier community



We are happy to announce the partnership with Xtreme Bootcamps, in this exciting venture to raise money to support the Community Hub, Sport and Leisure for the entire Community.



After the summer, the Woodrush Youth, Sport and Community Department, under the RUSH fitness programme will be on a mission to get the local community healthier by teaming up with Xtreme Bootcamps, who have very kindly given us proportional discounted monthly passes to Xtreme Bootcamps at Woodrush Sports Centre; Tuesdays and Thursdays 6.30pm-7.30pm, and Saturdays 11.00am-12.00pm.



All the money we raise from selling the discounted monthly passes to Xtreme Bootcamps will go towards the Community Hub, and Sport Centre, to benefit our students, school and entire Community. The Youth Committee, made up of a range of young people and students, are to lead the promotions through the Community alongside the Youth, Sport and Community Centre.

Look out for these discounted Xtreme Bootcamp vouchers at the Woodrush Youth, Sport and Community Centre! Support us in generating a Healthier Community today!



Woodrush Sports Centre

REGISTER NOW!

U7's Football Training August 2015

Tuesday
Sports Hall
6.00pm-7.00pm

Contact Football Academy Secretary; Rebecca Allen
T. 01564 820 099 E. lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Woodrush Sports Centre

REGISTER NOW!

Discounted Xtreme Bootcamps Vouchers
SEPTEMBER – JANUARY 2016

Tuesdays and Thursdays
6.30pm-7.30pm

Saturdays
11.00am-12.00pm

Contact Woodrush Sport and Leisure
Development Manager; Rebecca Allen
T. 01564 820 099 E. lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Woodrush Sports Centre

Casual Badminton

MONDAYS WEDNESDAYS
FRIDAYS

Sports Hall
8.00pm-10.00pm

ONLY £7.00 per court, per hour
or
10% discount for a 10 week block (pay upfront)

Contact Woodrush Sport and Leisure
Development Manager; Rebecca Allen
T. 01564 820 099 E. lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



Eniola Aluko

It was fantastic to see ex-Woodrush student Eniola playing in her third World Cup in Canada. Eniola played as a lone striker in England's 1-0 defeat of France on Tuesday 9th June and earned plaudits for her work rate against the third-best team in the FIFA rankings. Eniola Aluko will be writing a regular column for the BBC Sport website throughout the World Cup.



Rounders update

The Girls' Year 8 rounders team started the season with a strong performance against Churchill, winning their match 11-5. Captained by Sydney B, the team have gelled together well. Sydney demonstrated fast and efficient bowling, with Hannah G ready to collect any missed balls as backstop, throwing them straight to 2nd post to stop any scoring opportunities. Lucy H used her quick thinking on 4th post to stump out the opposition. Morgan C and Katie A have consistently shown their ability to place the ball in open spaces, using their power to score rounders.

The squad includes; Sydney B, Darcy S, Hannah G, Ellie R, Fran W, Holly D, Lucy H, Katie A, Morgan C, Emily M, Ria J, and Georgina W. All in the squad have demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork skills and the PE department are truly proud of their attitude towards competition and the sport. Well done girls!

Current Results

- Win against Churchill 11-5
- Loss against Ridgeway 8.5-16
- Loss against St Bedes 9-13.5

Miss Ford

Year 9 Results

- 10-9.5 Vs North Bromsgrove WOTM Emma D
 - 10-10 Vs TGA with a win on players out
 - 11.5-9 Vs Saints
- The squad will represent Redditch in the Sainsburys School Games in June

Year 7 Rugby

Over the last term a large cohort of Year 7 students have been attending Rugby training with the goal of competing in the regional Redditch school tournament. A squad of over 20 Year 7's have taken part in weekly Monday night training sessions with Mr. Taylor and Mr. Edwards (Level 2 Solihull Bees Coach) focusing on a whole host of skills and conditioned games. The first tournament fixture was away at Ridgeway. With the team unfortunately down a few squad members due to injury, it looked to be a daunting fixture. In the first half Ridgeway took the lead with two early tries and dominated the forward play and possession of the ball taking a 14-3 lead into the half time break, however this was to change. After the break, the Woodrush forward came out strongly, competing for the ball well and enabling Woodrush to gain extra possession and give the backs the chance to create several try scoring opportunities two of which were taken superbly well by Lewis E and Michael W. This left the score tight at 21-15 moving into the last 10 minutes. Unfortunately having worked so hard to get themselves back in the game, Woodrush began to tire in the closing minutes allowing Ridgeway to convert a final try and seal the game. A fantastic effort for the squad's first regional match. The squad ended up finishing in second place, narrowly missing a place in the semi-finals but a massive well done to all the boys who trained and took part. Congratulations must go out to the 3 players in the squad that were selected for U14 County trials on Sunday 17th May. With over 50 players attending the trials on the day, Dan T, Jack C and Lewis E performed extremely well throughout with Lewis E being selected to represent the county at U14's.



A fantastic achievement for Lewis and a recognition of the squad's hard work this year. Well done to all the Year 7 squad and we look forward to another successful year next season. Mr. Taylor

A big congratulations to Alex who received an early Christmas present and found out Christmas Eve, that she had been selected to represent England in an under 15 International fencing tournament in Poland in March 2015. Alex's England selection tops off an extremely successful year which saw her become both British and English age group champion when she won gold medals at the British Under 14 and the English Under 15 Championships in May and June 2014 respectively. The standard at both these competitions was extremely high, with fencers from all around the country including a number of established internationals.

The British Youth Championships is the largest competition of its type and 350 fencers qualified to take part across the different age groups. Alex qualified to represent her region in competitions held in January after winning the West Midlands Championships in both foil and epee. After a disappointing performance in the poules, which left Alex in 22nd place, she fought her way through 6 direct elimination fights to reach the final for epee, where she continued to demonstrate her skill and stamina to emerge as the winner in a convincing victory over the silver medallist.

Alex then went on to become English champion only a month later, thus guaranteeing her selection for the international in Poland.

Well done Alex.





Over the last few weeks Year 9 students have had the opportunity to participate in a new and innovative sport within PE; Tchoukball (yes that is spelt correctly). The sport is one of the fastest growing activities in the world at present and hugely popular in Sweden, Denmark and many other countries across the world with Brazil scheduled to host the upcoming 2015 World Championships.

On Saturday 7th of March a group of selected Woodrush Year 9 students had the privilege of representing the school on a national scale at the National Youth Tchoukball Championships 2015 in Bedford. With a limited amount of training the squad of 12 managed to compete fantastically well on the day, beating both Loughborough College and Farnborough High and narrowly missing out on a top three finish in a hugely competitive game against Cardinal Bishop and finally finishing 4th in the tournament. Alongside this fantastic squad performance, there was another achievement of note with 4 of the 9 students being invited to join the England Youth Development Squad, a pool of players from which the National Youth Team is selected from.

A huge congratulations must go out to the whole team who performed exceptionally well in their first National Competition, but in particular to the following students who have been lucky enough to be invited to the National Youth Development Squad, Ben F, James H, Will B and Harry B-L. Well done to them all.

Mr. Taylor

Congratulations to ex-Woodrush student Lloyd Glasspool and doubles partner Søren Hess-Olesen who ended their Texas tennis career as NCAA National Doubles Champions. Lloyd is planning on returning to England this year to play professionally!

Following in Lloyd's footsteps a number of students have made good use of newly painted tennis courts with students attending Tuesday and Thursday after school clubs. This year Woodrush entered the Aegon Team Tennis competition and in their first match Woodrush defeated Tudor Grange Academy Redditch winning 5 rubbers to 1. All players won their singles matches: Cameron G (6-3), Stephen B (6-2), Chris M (6-3) Liam H (7-5). In the doubles Cameron G and Stephen B defeated their opponents 6-4 and Chris M and Liam H lost 4-6.

Mr Maidment



Woodrush Student makes debut for Wales.

Well done to Tom A who represented Wales u16 football team in the UEFA Development Tournament.

The final standings were: Iceland - 7 points Wales - 6 points
Faroe Islands - 2 points
Northern Ireland - 1 point

In their opening match Wales lost 2-1 to Iceland but went on to win their remaining fixtures beating the Faroe Islands 2-0 (Tom A was involved in the both the goals) and Northern Island 4-1 (Tom A again involved in one of the goals).

Tom A enjoyed being fully involved in the games especially the matches against the Faroe Islands and Northern Island and said that it was his best football experience to date. He felt welcomed by all the players and coaches. This was a fantastic achievement for Tom who was playing against an older age group. Tom A has now set himself the target to represent Wales u17 team next year when they will be on tour in Malta.

Di awn – Tom!

Mr Maidment



Zoe C shoots to stardom with Villa

Zoe C captained the Aston Villa ladies' team in the under 17s FA cup final on Sunday 31st May at Stratford Upon Avon FC. Zoe carried out her captain duties like a true professional and led a strong and powerful team. Unfortunately the girls narrowly lost 1-2 to Arsenal ladies with Arsenal taking an early lead at the end of the first half.

Zoe is currently sitting her GCSEs and we wish her all the best!

Miss Ford



Sports Relief Mile

All pupils in years 7-9 completed the sports relief mile back in March raising money for Comic Relief. We had a range of pupils in fancy dress; can you guess who was wearing the morph suits?!





Athletics

The season started with a super 6 competition and district trials. Everyone arrived at the Abbey Stadium keen to get on with the competition. The start was delayed by a hail storm, and although events were started, the track was very wet and field events were hampered by slippery run ups. Eventually we had to call it a day after the third hail storm and the event was abandoned. As a result to get a winner from the super 6 competition personal bests were entered and our year 9 were runners up, being beaten by Saints by less than a 100 points.



The Redditch district team was chosen again from personal bests and the school had seven representatives; Chris M in the 1500m, Will B in 300m, Morgan G in the shot, 100m and relay, Morgan T in the 800m, Leah S in the 800m, Jazz L in the long jump and Lucy F in the high jump.

Lucy was chosen to represent the county and Chris was nominated as a reserve for the Mason trophy. Congratulations to all the athletes.

Year 7 and 8 have also been busy at the quad athletics trials with the final at the beginning of July. A large number of athletes achieved a top 4 placing, securing their spot in the district final.

Miss Price



DATE Tuesday 16th June 2015
VENUE Abbey Stadium
OPPOSITION Quad athletics trials Field events

DATE Thursday 18th June 2015
VENUE Abbey Stadium
OPPOSITION Quad athletics trials- track events

Year 7	
Field event	Athlete
Long Jump	Holly T Amber D Poppy W
Shot	Charlie T Morgan R
Discus	Holly F Abbi C
Javelin	Kyann H Esme H

Year 7	
Event	Athlete
100m	Derika A Amber D
200m	Sophie S Katie A
800m	Holly T Brooke M Poppy W
Relay	Amber D Derika A Holly T Sophie S Poppy W
High Jump	Sophie S Brooke M

Year 8	
Field event	Athlete
Long Jump	Lucy H Mia L
Shot	Ria J Beth T
Discus	Sydney B Morgan C
Javelin	Leah S Hannah G

Yr 8	
Event	Athlete
100m	Ria J Lucy H
200m	Hannah G Morgan C
800m	Emily M
1500m	Leah S
Relay	Leah S Lucy H Ria J Hannah G



Interview with Miss James

1) Why did you want to be a PE teacher?

I love sport. I enjoyed physical activity in and out of school and want to ensure pupils at Woodrush feel the same.

2) Which are your favourite sports?

Swimming, netball, running and rounders

3) Have you had any other jobs?

Yes I was a sports coach in America and I've been a PE teacher at another school.

4) Do you have 3 interesting facts about yourself?

- I want to run the London Marathon next year*
- I lived in America for 5 months*
- I can do good accent impressions*

5) Have you had any sport injuries?

I've currently hurt my knee from running and I've broke both my little fingers from skiing. I've had lots of sprained ankles!

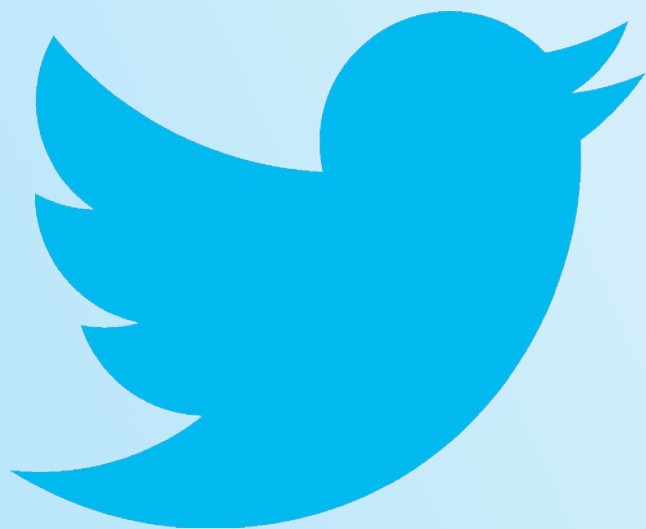
6) What do you enjoy about working at Woodrush?

Teaching. Students are polite and open doors for me! It's a fantastic feeling when students achieve success and work hard.

7) Who is the funniest member of the PE department and why?

Mr Taylor because he is so untidy! In fact he is probably the least tidy member of staff in the school!





@woodrushsport

Do you want up to date PE news? Follow us for match reports, GCSE and A level hints and tips!



Wimbledon

On Tuesday 30th June, Miss Price and Mr Maidment will be taking a select few students to the Wimbledon Tennis Championships as the school were fortunate enough to receive tickets from the ballot draw. We hope you all enjoy the day!



Sports Day

On Wednesday 24th June and Friday 26th June each house will be battling it out for those all important points towards the house cup. Pupils have been chosen to represent their house after achieving top scores in lessons for both track and field events. Which house will win?!



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 - Gymnasium Full
 - School Hall
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- Badminton Court
- Tennis Court Adult
- Tennis Court Junior
- Netball Court Adult
- Netball Court Junior
 - Classroom
 - Conference Room

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 JUNGLE INFLATABLE PARTY

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

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