



WOODRUSH STAR

Issue 28
Winter 2015



@WoodrushHigh



woodrushstar@
woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk



**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year!**



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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you enjoy reading our winter edition of The Woodrush Star and have also enjoyed our new look weekly 'Branch' this term. The autumn is always our longest term and this year we have been faced with many new challenges; new GCSE courses and grading system, the replacement of assessment levels and new accountability measures. As always, our staff and students have embraced these changes and worked extremely hard to ensure we have had a very successful start to this academic year.

We have been delighted with the effort of our students this term and the progress they have made towards their target grades. Senior students have been particularly busy with preparation for mock examinations in January. Copies of exam timetables can be found on our web site in both the parent and student areas.

With the New Year we will see even more positive changes at Woodrush with the opening of the new Hub bringing more provision for our students and the community, whilst providing much needed space for our expanding sixth form. We will also be welcoming Aspens as our new catering company from the start of January.

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

I am delighted to say I have had an excellent first term as Headteacher and I would like to thank the staff and students for all of their hard work. I would also like to thank parents and carers for their continued support with everything we do.

From all of us at Woodrush, I'd like to wish you a great Christmas holiday and we look forward to seeing all our students back on the first day of the spring term on Monday 4th January 2016.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

Ms N Rancins

Birmingham City Mission – Shoe Box Appeal

Each Christmas more than 800 needy families in the Birmingham area are referred to the Mission by members of the local community for its toy distribution. For some of the 2,000 children these will be the only presents they receive. Each child receives books, puzzles, cuddly toys, games, chocolates, sweets etc., appropriate to their age (from babies to teenagers) and gender. This is the fourth year running that the students and staff at Woodrush have contributed by generously donating gifts which they have placed in shoe boxes and then carefully wrapped up in Christmas paper. Last year's collection was a grand total of 124 boxes and we are aiming to beat that target! Birmingham City Mission have always remarked on how wonderful it is to put a smile on so many children and their families faces just before Christmas as in some cases it is not always a time of joy, so it is fantastic that Woodrush always play a part in this.



Please let us join together, as a community, to make a difference this Christmas to those children who are less fortunate.



Guess the Christmas Movie



Below are scenes from TWELVE christmas movies.
Guess the answers and submit your answers to Frog



Answers
available on





ASPIRE

Year 7 ASPIRE Teambuilding Day

A few weeks into the term, all of Year 7 had a day off timetable to participate in a Teambuilding Day as part of the ASPIRE program. Throughout the day the

forms took part in a number of different challenges, each designed to challenge their initiative, resilience, communication, leadership and organisation.

The day started with everyone in the hall completing puzzles against the clock, the key to success was working together and using everyone's individual strengths. They then went to different rooms to take part in physical and mental challenges, including a fiendishly difficult observation quiz and silent square team puzzle. In the 'protect the egg' challenge students had to build a protective case of an egg so that it wouldn't crack when it was dropped. The mess on the floor showed that they weren't always successful!



In the physical challenges students had to cross a 'river' using 'lily pads' and get the whole form through a hula hoop without letting go of hands. They rose to the challenge; even when the lily pads broke, and managed to find ways to finish the tasks.

At the end of the day students took time to reflect on the skills they had developed during the day and the all important results were announced. In third place were Brindley, in second were Cadbury but the clear winners, gaining 40 points for their house, were Eliot.

Well done to Eliot and all of year 7 on a tremendous day!



"I showed **initiative** in the river crossing challenge when our lily pad broke and we still completed it"



"I showed **resilience** by never giving up. even though the memory challenge was hard"



"We were **organised** during the egg challenge as we had a plan and made sure everyone had a role"



"I showed **leadership** in the silent squares task as I knew how to do it and got everyone involved"



In October, all of year 11 took part in a Futures Day which gave them the opportunity to explore what they would like to do once they leave Woodrush and help them prepare for their next steps.

At the start of the day they listened to a talk from a representative from 'All About School Leavers' who gave them valuable information about routes they may not have previously considered, such as apprenticeships and paid degrees. During the rest of the day they had the opportunity to explore different career paths in various job sectors, work on creating the perfect CV, understand the labour market and get hints and tips on interview techniques.

Year 11 ASPIRE Futures Day



On the following Tuesday, all year 11s arrived at school dressed in formalwear, ready for a mock interview. Students had opted into the career they would like to be interviewed for and many were interviewed by volunteer experts in their field. Students took the day very seriously and had obviously taken on board the lessons they had learned in their ASPIRE Day. All the interviewers commented on the quality of the students they interviewed and even said that they would happily employ them if it had been real interview situation!

Year 11 learnt a lot from the experience saying that it helped them consider options that they hadn't looked at before and that they now felt much more prepared for any future interviews that they have. Overall, they were a credit to the school and it was really pleasing to see what a confident and mature set of young people they are developing into.

Well done Year 11!

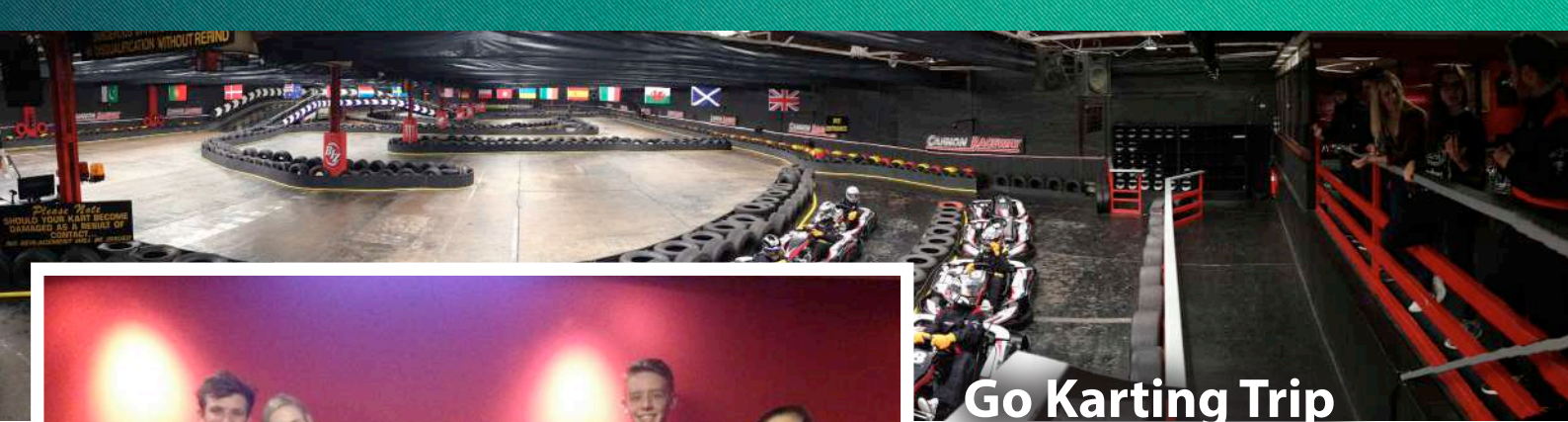


School Council

This term, all forms elected members to the School Council and they have got stuck in straight away with some important issues. In our first School Council meeting we discussed what charity the school should raise money for this year. Council members looked at the long list of charities suggested by students and the reasons behind them. In the end we made a shortlist of three to take back to forms and vote on. The result was clear and the charity chosen for this year is Cancer Research. The School Council had noticed that a large number of suggested charities were related to various types of cancer and these often had very personal reasons behind them. They felt that by choosing Cancer Research they were contributing to finding a cure for all types of cancer and this best fitted what students wanted. We will keep you up to date on the fundraising activities we will be doing in the next edition of the Woodrush Star!

The second important decision the School Council helped with was the deciding which company should provide the school's catering. During the School Council meeting, members discussed what issues should be taken into consideration when making the decision and then got their forms to vote on what they felt was most important. These results were then used to come up with some key questions and a group of council representatives met all of the companies and had a chance to hear their ideas and taste the food. The students' views were then fed back to the senior leadership team and were key in making the final decision. Overall an excellent start for the new School Council!





Go Karting Trip



On Wednesday 14th October a group of 39 sixth formers went to Cannon Raceway to take part in go karting and laser tag, as part of a teambuilding session! The two years were put into mixed groups of 10 and were sent off to their first activity.

My group's first activity was laser quest! We were led into a briefing room where we put on our packs with our guns then we were let loose in the arena. After two 15 minute games Alex H was declared the champion of both. Then it was on to go karting! After getting kitted out in overalls and balaclavas then a quick safety video, we got out on the track. 25 laps of speeding over the bridge and skidding around corners was really good fun and head girl, Megan D, showed everyone who's boss by beating us all, with a lap time 2 seconds faster than Mr Virdee.

It was a great day out that everyone enjoyed and the two years are now getting along together smoothly.

Reported by Jess J

Sixth Form Settling In

After a fast pace and exciting half term, year 12 have fully settled in and are excelling in their new A-level and BTEC subjects at Woodrush Sixth Form. Since completing their GCSEs last July, and achieving some fantastic results, prospective sixth form students attended two taster days that allowed them to experience sixth form life, integrate with the now year 13s and participate in a range of workshops that allowed them to prepare for the intensity of a level three course. Having had these workshops, year 12 have started sixth form, comfortable and prepared for academic life.

As a new aspect of sixth form life, weekly enrichment sessions have been introduced that allow students to gain needed skills which equip them in the transition to higher education. During these two hour weekly sessions, various experts have come and spoken about a range of subjects; from citizenship to finance. In addition to this, students have been offered several opportunities to achieve numerous awards and obtain voluntary placements – all of which will assist in employability and UCAS personal statements.

To encourage a friendly and welcoming environment, our sixth form has a committee, this committee discuss issues and organise events, ranging from fundraising (our Macmillan coffee morning) to social events (our sixth form sleepover and recent go karting/laser quest trip). Four year 12 students sit on our sixth form committee which, not only promotes sixth form cohesion, but also allows year 12 to have a leading say on decisions made about our sixth form.

Overall, we have been made to feel very welcome by teachers and year 13s alike who have embraced us into sixth form life. We are sure that year 12 will continue to succeed throughout our time in sixth form.

Chloe W & Annalisa L





MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

UHS Sixth Form

Sixth Form Sleepover

On Friday 13th November, 57 sixth formers along with 6 members of staff took part in a charity sleepover to raise money for Max L who is a member of our Sixth Form. The night began with a few fun games including pass the parcel, and a new game for most, called ninja. We then got on to the two events everyone was waiting for: the quiz (which was won by the sixth formers not the teachers) and the ghost walk.

The quiz was fun as we all got into teams and everybody's competitive side really came out towards the end as the questions gradually got harder. The ghost walk which was ran

by the caretakers, who we are very grateful to, was a thrilling experience, with many true ghost stories and exciting props which really scared us all. After, we proceeded to play hide and seek and capture the flag with the teams being split into boys and girls. Luckily we were all brave enough to take part in roaming the dark halls after the things we had been told about what happens in the school at night.

Overall it was a great experience for a worthy cause and we were able to raise £290. Thank you to everyone involved especially the teachers and those who planned the event and worked to make it a really great night.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

On Friday the 25th of September, Sixth Form got together to raise money for Macmillan. Everyone brought in cakes to sell to teachers at break time in the common room then later to lower school students in the quad. Collectively, we filled the library with cakes and had the best turnout the sixth form has ever seen! As well as selling cakes, coffee and raffle tickets, we also played 'guess the calories' in Shaun's 'interesting' invention of a cake and 'guess the dots on the cake' which was a great success with the whole school getting involved.

The entire sixth form got involved in the event and had a great day raising an impressive total of over £400! Thank you to everyone who took part and we can't wait to beat our total next year.

Reported by Alex F





World Record Attempt

Year 10 triple scientists were part of a world record attempt this half term. Along with pupils in other schools up and down the length and the breadth of the country the aim was to produce the longest balloon model of a DNA helix.

Preparation took place on the 2nd October for the big event on the 3rd when all schools were performing the attempt at the same time. In their biology lesson on the Monday the pupils were briefed and they prepared their materials by cutting their balloons to size and getting them blown up. There were 5 coloured balloons, white balloons to represent the sugar-phosphate backbone of the DNA molecule and the red, green, yellow and blue balloons represented the 4 bases adenine, cytosine, guanine and thymine.



On the big day the triple scientists were instructed by a professional balloon maker via video and had to put together the DNA helix, each in charge of creating a rung. These rungs were then put together to form the 10 rung helix to the specification set out by the Guinness Book of World Records and can be seen in the picture. We are still waiting to find out if the record has been achieved so watch this space, and maybe Woodrush will be making an appearance in the next edition of the Guinness World Book of Records!!

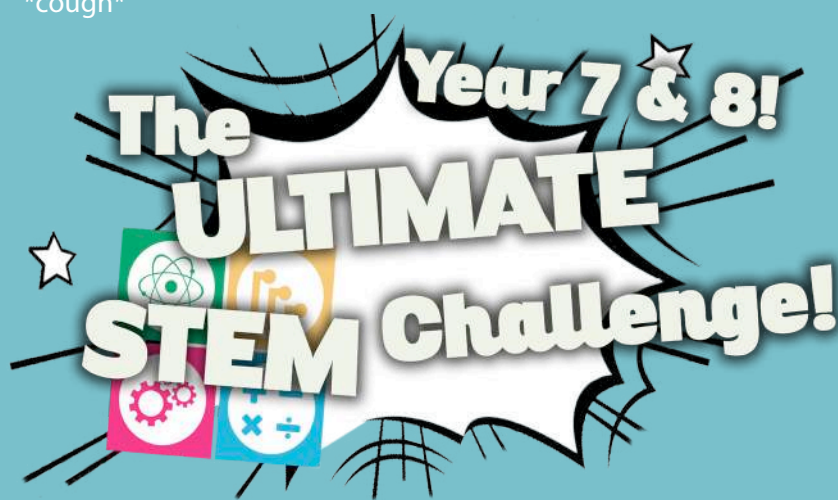
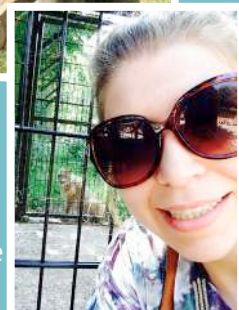
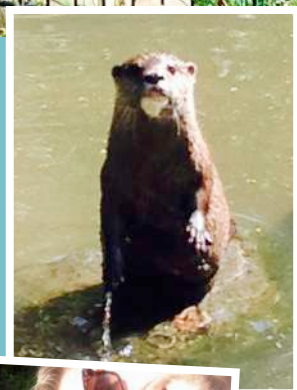


KS3 Science Rewards Trip

In July, pupils in year 7 and 8 who had shown an outstanding attitude to their learning, by getting A2L grades of 1 in at least 2 of their science progress reports, were invited to attend the science rewards trip to the Birmingham Wildlife and Conservation Centre.

Pupils arrived at the centre early and were given the task to find out the conservation status of all the animals in the park, stopping now and again to watch the feeding of the different animals such as the otters and the lynx, followed by feeding time of their own with an ice cream in the glorious weather we were treated to.

The teachers got competitive and started a 'selfie with an animal' competition, you can judge for yourself who won *cough* Miss Hempson *cough*



This year we are running science club slightly differently to last year. Instead of a 'general club' with weekly sessions there are blocks with different themes. This term the block has been all about competing in the Ultimate STEM Challenge.

In association with the Science Museum and BP pupils have been working on a prototype house which will stay cool in the summer. Pupils have been spending the first couple of weeks carrying out scientific investigations to find out the best materials to build the house with along with testing the positioning of the house can keep the house cool.

In the final week pupils made a video for their competition entry showing their prototype extremely well! Fingers crossed for the result!

Welcome Mr. Bryant

I remember being at school in year 9 thinking about my GCSE options, knowing that I hated physics and would give it up as soon as I could. Fortunately, I had to carry on for another two years. With the help of a new physics teacher in the school, I came to really enjoy it. In fact, I like it so much that I studied physics at A Level, and then eventually at university. I think the fact that one teacher had such a big impact on my life inspired me to think about doing it too, and so I suppose you could say that's why I became a teacher... at least partly.

Outside of school, I like to spend time with my wife, either looking around national trust properties (her favourite) or going to the cinema (mine). I'm also a Formula 1 fan and enjoy pretending, so I like to go karting. I'm a Christian so I go to church on most Sundays, and I really enjoy watching documentaries and reading books about our universe and how it all started, thinking about how physics and faith can fit together.

Interesting things about me:

- I really hate cheese. There is nothing good about it.
- I am a massive Taylor Swift fan.



KS5 Silver Crest awards

During the last academic year, six year 13 students; Matt M, Amy L, Megan B, Lauren C, Emily H and Christie D worked alongside Miss Hollingworth to run science club sessions for year 7 and 8 students.

The sixth formers ran twelve sessions throughout the year which included making rockets, creating a project on dinosaurs, becoming crime scene investigators and making exploding volcanoes. The sixth formers had to create the sessions and complete lesson plans and risk assessments for all sessions. They all worked extremely hard to provide interactive and enjoyable sessions which the lower school students loved. They were awarded their Crest awards in August.



KS4 Science Challenge

On Wednesday afternoons ten year 10 students are completing a science challenge to achieve their Bronze Crest award and also complete the skills section of their Bronze DofE award.

The students are investigating the cleaning effects of household items and testing the effectiveness of cleaning products. The students will need to grow bacterial cultures to test their products on and make a conclusion about the best cleaning product. They need to compile a presentation including background research, plans, risk assessments, practical results and photos and then evaluate and analyse their results. They will need to present their findings in December to each other and a representative from the British Science Association. Good Luck!



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Whitemoor Lakes 2015

Woodrush High School and St Mary's Church

During the first half term, a group of year 8 students went to Whitemoor Lakes for a 3 day residential in order to explore Christian ideas covered in lesson and develop new friendships and ideas around community cohesion, spirituality and team work.

On arrival we had lunch and kick started some of the activities that we all would be taking part in. Some of these activities included the 'Power Challenge' and the 'Team-work Challenge', who ever thought it would be so hard to balance a slide out? It was very amusing to watch the different strategies that different groups thought of!!! Students also took part in a range of activities including abseiling, zip wiring, archery, fencing and canoeing. A huge well done to students that had to overcome fears in order to take part in some of these.

During our visit we also took part in some youth alpha sessions, exploring the idea of the trinity and looking within ourselves at who we are and what makes us the people we are. We explored these concepts through a range of games including kung fu activities which was very amusing to watch.

All in all, an excellent residential with good activities, an inspiring youth alpha challenge, amazing teachers and St Mary's youth workers and outstanding Woodrush pupils. A massive Thank you to St Mary's Church - Dean Taylor and Ria Taylor and Mr Hammond

A huge thank you to our young leaders who included – Mya F, Carys C, Laura B, Daniel T and Lewis H.
Reported by Miss Kaur



Humanities – Rewarding Success!

The Humanities Faculty launched a comprehensive rewards scheme for all our subjects in 2014/15.

Each term students were nominated for the accolade of 'Student of the Term' and a celebratory post-card sent home to mark the achievement. At the end of the school year all students who had been nominated as a 'Student of the Term', whether in History, Geography, RE, Health and Social Care Sixth Form subjects, were invited to join us on our Humanities Rewards trip.

This took place in early July and was a fabulous day to remember! The trip to central Birmingham started with a behind-the-scenes tour of the Barclaycard Arena (part of the National Indoor Arena). Our students were fascinated to be part of such a close-up look at what goes on to run such a large scale entertainment venue. They enjoyed seeing all the technology used and watching the Arena in action.

Most of all they loved hearing the stories of some of the major entertainment stars and their concerts and looking at the Arena's very own 'Hall of Fame', with signatures and messages from all the recent stars who've performed there. Afterwards we joined an hour long canal cruise through Gas Street Basin and beyond to the University of Birmingham's Vale site. This look, at slow speed, through the backwaters of Birmingham's changing history and urban geography kept everyone captivated whilst informing us about the last two centuries of life on the 'working canals' of our industrial heartland.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and, just as importantly, the ice-creams afterwards on the side of Brindley Place!
Mr Cooper



Year 12 University of Birmingham Trip

On Thursday 5th of November, a group of Year 12 students went on a history taster day to the University of Birmingham to gain a glimpse into what studying history in higher education can be like. The day included a walk around the Barber Institute where we inferred information about a time period from paintings and a workshop investigating the progression of coinage in which students were able to handle coins from a variety of eras and places (including one which was 2,500 years old). Pupils also spent some time working with manuscripts, looking at what messages we could infer from these about the Byzantine period. This was a brilliant opportunity for students to learn about a completely new period, speak to university students and post-graduates about their experiences, and also work with exceptionally old primary sources which will help them to develop source analysis skills useful for their progression as historians.

Making Games for children

As part of the Year 9 Health and Social Care work we have been doing regarding early childhood, this term, the students have been learning about the importance of play to a child's growth and development. We spent some time looking at different types of play and different types of games and discussed how the games helped with a child's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development generally. It brought back many memories of the sorts of toys and games that the students played with when they were much smaller.

The class then divided themselves up into smaller groups of 2 or 3 people and have spent time designing and making a game or book that can be played with by a child aged 3 – 5 years. They have had to think about materials they are using, whether the content is aimed at the correct age group and whether they are stimulating learning as part of playing the game. The games also have to be colourful to look at and easy to play or read.

Each group has been working really hard and we are looking forward to testing out and evaluating each game after Christmas.

Mrs Hatton



Health and Social Care Baby programme.

This is the third year running that students in the Year 9 health and social care group have taken part in the Baby Care programme in school. I have two electronic babies, a boy and a girl, that are the size of a new-born baby of a teen mother and weighing 5lbs 8 oz. There are 3 programmes that can be used with each baby and the students are given a set of keys with which they need to give the appropriate care to the baby when it cries. There are 5 keys in total: one for changing a nappy; one for feeding the baby; one for burping baby; one for giving it some love and attention; and finally a panic key which can be used if the student cannot stop baby from crying.



The purpose of the Baby Care programme is to allow students to learn about and understand the demands and pressures that caring for a baby can have on a parent. They soon realise that looking after a baby is a 24 hour, 7 days a week thing and that it is not easy.

The students taking part in the programme this term have all volunteered to do so, most taking baby away smiling and happy to participate only to return the following day eager to hand it back.

There has been a mixed reaction to the experience generally but all students have agreed that having to deal with a crying baby all through the night and being kept from sleeping is not something they want to experience for a long time to come in real life.

Some of the things they had to say were:

"2:00am baby crying again and now I am getting really annoyed because I want to sleep"

"2:20am – I am REALLY TIRED!!!!"

"2:25 – I don't want one, baby won't sleep!"

"I'm so tired. Sometimes it was okay but sometimes it really annoyed me"

"URGHH! It has woken me again... it is driving me mad."

"Let's just say I'll never have a baby!!! I am so TIRED!!!!"

"How many poos do they do?!!!"

"I had to put the panic key in as it wouldn't shut up!"

Mrs Hatton



Welcome Mr Reece

I've been teaching for 12 years. My hobbies are travelling, football, skiing and mountain climbing. I have lived in USA, New Zealand and Fiji and my lifetime ambition is to build a luxury treehouse!



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)



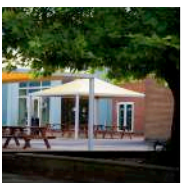
For 2016/2017 Woodrush will be offering Secondary placements in Maths, English, Physics, Chemistry, Geography and MFL.

We will also be offering Primary Placements with schools in our local area.

Increased tax-free bursaries to train to teach

Top graduates for 2016-17 are now being offered up to £30,000 tax free to train to teach the key subjects - like Maths and Physics - that help young people reach their full potential.

The amount you receive depends on the degree you have and the subject you are training to teach.



Woodrush Teaching School Alliance



How does School Direct work?

You'll train in at least two schools, and you'll also be taught by the university.

- You will teach either at Woodrush or one of the schools in our alliance.
- There are primary and secondary places available – the numbers vary across subjects and age groups.
- Training programmes generally last one year full-time, in line with the term dates of your chosen school.
- You will teach over 4 days and have one whole day of training each week

School Direct places have now opened on UCAS

You can apply for up to three training programmes on your UCAS Teacher Training application. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, so please remember that popular courses will fill up quickly. Some subjects will have a limited number of places available, so make sure you don't leave your application to the last minute!

There is a wealth of information regarding Teacher Training on the UCAS website

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/teacher-training>

There is also a lot more information on our own websites:

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

Or contact the
Teaching School Administrator
Miss A Cotterill for further information

teachingschool@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

MACBETH

On Tuesday 22nd September students from the year 10 drama class visited The Palace Theatre in Redditch, students in this class were given the task of performing as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival and then went on to perform Macbeth to an audience on the 10th November at The Palace Theatre. Students had a fantastic day on the 22nd September and the 10th November working with the Shakespeare Schools Festival actors and directors who helped our students improve their performance skills and learn new techniques in preparation for their performance. Woodrush students worked in collaboration with other schools in the area and had the chance to perform on stage, working with a lighting and sound crew to perfect their work. The performers did our school proud and the SSF Director was highly complementary of the performance piece, well done!



CREATIVITY



Winter Concert

This year's Winter Concert took place on the 10th December and was a celebration of the arts, with drama, music and dance performances being showcased. It was a fantastic evening with students from Year 7 – 13 taking part. Highlights included a pantomime performance from the Key Stage 3 Drama Club, Macbeth extracts from the Shakespeare Schools Festival, solos from our talented singers and instrumentalists, Woodrush Voices and Band along with dance performances from our GCSE musicians and the Woodrush Force and Force Dance groups. The BTEC Musicians played in the foyer along with a Santa's Workshop selling festive goods set up by the young entrepreneurs in school. This along with mince pies and mulled wine created a fantastic evening, thanks to all those who came and supported the students and to those who took part.



Spotlight on an Artist

Athanasi P

Athanasi is currently studying for a BTEC Extended Diploma in art & design at Woodrush High School. This course is worth 3 A-Levels and has the potential to achieve 420 UCAS points if top marks are achieved in every unit. The course looks at many different areas of art and design; these include painting, drawing, printing, typography, fashion, graphic design and photography. Athanasi has developed and refined his drawing and painting skills considerably over the last 2 years, producing large scale experimental paintings, like the ones shown. Athanasi's main subject matter is portraits. He has experimented with many different scales and media in his work, expressing himself by developing his own style of painting. Athanasi said about his most recent project "I have explored many different types of painting techniques, by doing this, I have found my love for oil painting; this project helped me improve my painting and portraiture skills"



VE
ARTS



THE LION KING

The School Musical!

This year's school musical has been confirmed! In July next year Woodrush will be performing their version of The Lion King! Auditions will take place after Christmas and students are encouraged to take the audition script home before Christmas to practice. Our art department will also be creating the set and costume pieces for the school show as part of the Set Design club. If you would like to audition for a part in the musical, backstage or help with the set design then please see Miss Dyer or a member of the Creative Arts Faculty as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming you to our show!





Business Studies Budding Entrepreneurs

This term some of our budding entrepreneurs have successfully pitched for hundreds of pounds from a Dragons' Den millionaire to start their own businesses. The eight year 7 and year 10 students got their enterprise break after their application for a £1928.46 business start-up loan from the Peter Jones Foundation Business Tycoon in Schools initiative was accepted. This fantastic opportunity has allowed students to get their first taste of running a business.

The students have specialised in specially designed mugs, mason jars and glasses, gift hampers and golf merchandise in time for Christmas. A major incentive for students is that they will be allowed to keep the profits they make after returning the original loan amount.

In past years, the Tycoon in Schools Awards Ceremony has been held at Buckingham Palace, hosted by HRH, The Duke of York KG, Patron of the Peter Jones Foundation. Woodrush High School pupils are hoping to do well enough in the competition to get the chance to mingle with royalty at Buckingham Palace.



Banking work experience success

A sixth form pupil looks set to land a position with high street bank, Barclays after a successful work experience week. The bank manager was so impressed with her presentation and work ethics she decided to recommend her for a position with the bank.

Other students also spent several days with other branches learning about how banks operate and gained valuable real life experience in a working environment.



It's our Diamond Anniversary

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a charity that has been dedicated to helping young people give it their all since 1956. With every challenge they take on, and every DofE Award they work towards, young people from all walks of life have been given a chance to shine.

The DofE helps open doors and transform the lives of young people like Emma, who was struggling to find her way in life. But as a charity, we're nothing without the support of people like you. Take the DofE Diamond Challenge, raise money and you'll give even more young people like Spencer that stepping stone they need towards a brighter future.

Find yours today

As part of the DofE's Diamond Anniversary celebrations, we're inviting everyone to take the DofE Diamond Challenge. The Challenge is inspired by the DofE Award, asking you to take on your own adventure, personal or skill challenge.

Your challenge can be as big or as small as you like, from kayaking the Zambesi to learning to knit. If it's a challenge to you, it counts. And the best part is, it's open to anyone of any age, anywhere! So if you never had the chance to get involved while growing up, if your kids are doing it now, if you're doing your own DofE or if you're just looking for a reason to get out of your comfort zone, seize the day!



Choose a challenge, change a life

Sign up now at <https://dofediamondchallenge.org/log-in/> and your £20 (£15 for under 18s) fee gets you an exclusive **Challenger Kit** – complete with t-shirt and Challenge Companion, a journal and keepsake to help you at each stage of your challenge; from choosing, to planning, taking part and remembering it forever.

To complete your Challenge, we need you to **raise a minimum of £60** – it is our 60th birthday, after all! Then you'll not only be rewarded with a limited edition DofE Diamond Challenge pin and a huge sense of achievement, you'll also help to transform lives.

Raise £40 and you'll help fund the registration cost of a DofE programme for a young person from a disadvantaged community. **Raise £100** and you'll help us train more inspiring DofE Leaders. Or **reach £150** and you'll fund one of our specially-trained local operations team for a day.

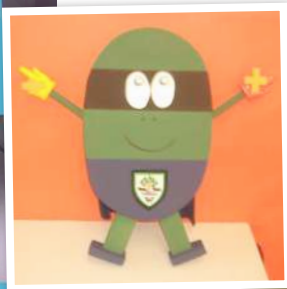
Numeracy at Woodrush

Woodrush High School is committed to embedding numeracy across the curriculum. This first 2 terms has seen a whole range of activities taking place both in lessons and around school.

A "Create your own Super Numan" competition was run for year 7. There was a huge number of entries from Year 7, with all sorts of original ideas!

Numeracy ambassadors have been appointed across years 7 to 10. Their role is to support the numeracy coordinator, promoting numeracy. They have already been busy making displays and helping me judge the Super Numan Competition. We hope to develop their role as the year goes on. The students involved have shown real commitment and enthusiasm so far and have had some fantastic ideas.

Parents are actively encouraged to get involved, supporting the students with numeracy. Don't forget to check out the school website where there is a wealth of information! Whether it is helping read the water meter or working out the tip in a restaurant, opportunities for numeracy are all around us!



Make Super Numan 1st Place:
Ellie J 7L1

By Mr Heyes, Numeracy Coordinator

*Guess the first line of the
Christmas movie!*

- 1) Whenever I get gloomy with the state of the world
- 2) I have found almost everything written about love to be true
- 3) So you're here for the story?
- 4) Well. That was a fine meal.
- 5) Where's my suitcase?
- 6) Inside a snowflake
- 7) Ho-ho-ho! Merry Christmas!
- 8) Ask him. Shh.
- 9) Look! It's Turbo Man & Booster
- 10) You don't like flying do you?



Welcome Mr Griffiths

I am Mr Griffiths and I have joined Woodrush as 2nd in department for the design and technology faculty. My specialism is product design (resistant materials) which I teach through to A-level. I grew up in Wrexham, North Wales

where I attended a Welsh nursery, primary school and secondary school and I speak fluent Welsh. At the time very few people in my local area could speak Welsh.

I studied mechanical engineering at the University of Liverpool, I spent four great years there before embarking on my PGCE at The Manchester Metropolitan University. I have worked for companies including Motorola, Nokia, Kingspan all within the Engineering field. Having really inspiring teachers as a pupil at school, which let me experiment, have fun and learn at the same time led me to teaching.

My hobbies include learning Russian, spending time with my family and children, traveling to Russia, reading and listening to The Beatles. Some interesting facts? I am a fully-fledged postman having spent my holidays working for the Royal Mail! I was a 100 meter champion in my schools and went on to participate in boxing at university.



New Food @ Woodrush High School

Aspens Services is our new catering company and they will be providing our food after the Christmas break. Aspens specialise in providing catering for education and are passionate about serving fresh, high quality, and locally sourced food that is cooked in our kitchen.

The food students eat plays an important role in their wellbeing, and eating a well balanced diet will not only maintain and improve their health, but will also set them on the right track for later life. That's why Aspens Services, are passionate about getting their menus just right!

New Food Offers

World Kitchen is a traditional hot food offer. The exciting weekly menu is based on food from around the world and includes a range of hot and tasty puddings.

Hot Deli features a choice of hot marinated chicken wraps plus crispy jacket potatoes with a variety of different toppings. You will also see guest offers appear on this counter. Look out for the Street Food menu, Hacienda Mexicana dishes, Carb Central and their Pizza and Pasta Plus ranges.

Grab and Go is where you will find a great range of freshly filled sandwiches, baked baguettes, wraps and bagels. There will also be a range of shaker salad, noodle, pasta and cous cous pots as well as a choice



4/1, 25/1, 15/2, 7/3

WEEK ONE

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Check out our other counters for the rest of our lunch range

to meals

Aspens

Creamy Chicken Tikka Masala
Lemon Rice
Homemade Naan

Creamy Potato, Mushroom & Chick Pea Masala
Broccoli

Strawberry Shortbread Mousse

Pasta Bar
Beef Ragu, Spicy Chicken & Tomato
Garlic Bread Slice

Wholemeal Pasta with Creamy Prima Vera Sauce
Garlic Bread Slice

Pineapple Upside Down Sponge
Vanilla Custard

Honey Roast Gammon
Crispy Roast Potatoes
Braised Leeks

Roasted Giant Mushroom with Roast Peppers & Goats Cheese
Braised Leeks

Double Chocolate Mousse
Mini Chocolate Brownie Cubes

Spicy Turkey Patty with Tomato Chutney
Minted New Potatoes

Mushroom, Pepper & Five Bean Herb Cobbler
Cauliflower

Rhubarb Fool with Custard Layer

Lemon & Pepper Battered Fish Fillet
Chips
Peas

Roasted Mediterranean Vegetable Pasta with Crispy Topping
Garden Salad

Berry & Apple Roly Poly
Vanilla Custard

We have a daily range of seasonal vegetables and accompaniments available with every dish.

11/1, 1/2, 22/2, 14/7

WEEK TWO

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Check out our other counters for the rest of our lunch range

to meals

Chilli Con Carne
Nachos, Jalapeno Peppers, Salsa, Sour Cream

Chicken Sagwala
Wholegrain Rice, Naan Bread

Roast Belly Pork
Fresh Apple Sauce, Crispy Roast Potatoes, Red Cabbage

Grilled Cumberland Sausage
Bubble & Squeak, Rich Onion Gravy

Battered Fish
Chips, Peas

Check out our other counters for the rest of our lunch range



Aspens



of cold desserts, homemade cakes, biscuits and fresh fruit.

Special Diets

Don't think that students can't enjoy the new food offers if they have a special diet. Aspen's can cater for a range of special diets. Just ask them.

Free School Meals

Did you know that you might be entitled to free school meals? For more information and details on how to claim, visit www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals

Great Money Saving Deals and Promotions

There will be a range of meal deals on offer every day to help save money. There will also be a range of themed events and promotions to create a buzz in the restaurant. Look out for the range of posters and messages on the plasma screens for more details.

What's on the Menu?

There will be a range of food and drinks available at different times of the day. Visit them at mid-morning break to fill the gap and at lunch time, so make sure you pay them a visit at some point throughout the day.

Take a look at their World Kitchen menu.



meals		Aspens
Macaroni Cheese Garlic Bread	Plum Crumble Vanilla Custard	
Chick Pea & Vegetable Balti Wholegrain Rice Naan Bread	Treacle Tart Pouring Cream	
Grilled Halloumi & Roasted Pepper Wrap Paprika Wedges	Apple & Cinnamon Pie Vanilla Custard	
Quorn Sausages Garlic Mash Tomato Sauce	Sticky Toffee Pudding Vanilla Ice Cream	
Root Vegetable Strudel Sweet Potato Wedges	Winter Fruits Cheesecake	

We have a daily range of seasonal vegetables and accompaniments available with every dish.

18/1, 8/2, 29/2, 21/3
WEEK THREE
MONDAY
TUESDAY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
Check out our other counters for the rest of our lunch range

meals		Aspens
Chicken & Bacon Casserole Red Pepper Rice	Creamy Cauliflower & Curly Kale Cheese Braised Carrots New Potatoes	Winter Fruit Crumble Vanilla Custard
Sweet & Sour Pork Soy Noodles Prawn Crackers	Oriental Chinese Vegetable Stir Fry Wholegrain Rice	Traditional English Trifle
Roast Chicken Crispy Roast Potatoes Honey Roast Parsnips	Roasted Vegetable Chilli Wholegrain Rice Garlic & Cumin Slice	Chocolate Sponge Rich Chocolate Sauce
Hearty Beef & Mushroom Pie Minted New Potatoes Winter Roasted Vegetables	Leek & Potato Bake Seasonal Salad	Bread & Butter Pudding Vanilla Sauce
Crispy Fish Goujons Chips Peas	Vegetable Biryani Bombay Potatoes Poppadums	Apple & Blackberry Pie Vanilla Custard

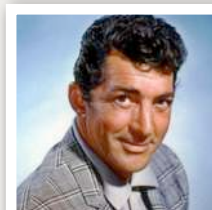
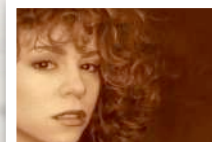
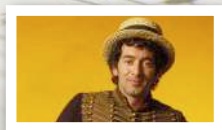
We have a daily range of seasonal vegetables and accompaniments available with every dish.

Guess the First Line

Your challenge is simple, name the Artist and Song!
Clues are around the outside of this page!

- 1) I don't want a...
- 2) You better watch...
- 3) The cold wind is blowin...
- 4) Just see the sleigh bells...
- 5) I really can't stay...
- 6) What if ribbons and bows...
- 7) Out of all the reindeers you know you're the mastermind...
- 8) The moon is right, the spirits up...
- 9) Feinging joy and surprise at the gifts we despise over mulled wine with you...
- 10) Welcome to my christmas song...
- 11) Hey, Mr. Churchill comes over here...
- 12) It was Christmas eve babe...
- 13) Chesnuts roasting on an open fire...

Answers
available on



WOODRUSH STAR

Advertise with us

Distributed to over 1100 Woodrush students and their families, local primary schools and businesses in the local community.

Size	Normal Cost	First Advert Discount
1/8 A4	£25	£20
1/4 A4	£45	£36
1/2 A4	£80	£64
A4	£120	£96



For more information contact C Hempson at woodrushstar@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Last year our activity day for Years 7 – 10 took place on the school premises, with the exception of students who went on the maths trip to Paris. All teaching staff were asked to run either a full day activity or 3 x 90 minute activities which students could sign up to over the course of the day. The activities consisted of:

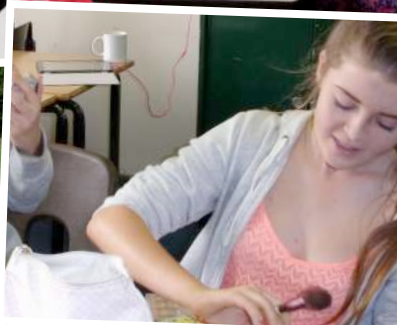
Whole day sessions

- Force Dance – a contemporary, street, rock 'n' roll, and jazz dance group
- Filming - creating a film from the planning and pre-production stage, through to filming projects around the school site to editing and final presentation of trailer.
- Mask Making - creating an individual mask which was sculpted to fit a face.
- Woodrush Bake off – challenging cake baking skills
- Play for a day – putting together the play "Our Day Out" and performing it.
- Designing - creating and Sewing a textiles Novelty bag

Different 90 minute sessions

- Jewellery making
- Murder Mystery
- Gardening
- Birmingham City Football Training
- Quick cricket
- An Introduction to Music
- Manicure session
- Art Instillation
- Capture the Flag/It's a knockout
- 5 aside football
- Horse Care
- Card
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Animal Club
- Nails
- Zorb Football/Dodge Ball
- Beauty and Make up
- Movie Watch
- Yoga

Break and lunchtime was extended for everyone on the day and we were lucky to have some really good weather which allowed all activities to run inside and outdoors. With such a different variety of activities on offer most students were able to participate in something they really wanted to do and those who took part said they had had a good time and enjoyed the day.



Patrick Ness

The D.E.A.R Readers' first group activity was to see Patrick Ness, an award winning writer, at a local high school. There, he was talking about ideas for stories and just that a random fact about yourself could be put into a story. Many of us liked that idea and I think he could tell that. To show how this works, he asked one of the boys in the audience to list four facts about himself and then asked us to think of how these could be used in a story. Some of the answers made us laugh a lot. During the presentation he also read a few pages of one of his books called 'The Knife of Never Letting Go'.

His newest book is called 'The Rest of Just Us Live Here'; at the end of his presentation many of us bought the book and got it signed by him. Patrick Ness has been writing for 15 years and has written for the teenage audience, and on the occasional instance, the radio. One of his books is being made into a film, coming out next year; it's called 'A Monster Calls', starring celebrities such as Liam Neeson and Sigourney Weaver.

Ness is an inspiration for us all. His main thoughts on his career being: "If you want to become a writer, it can happen". In the presentation, that was one of the first things he said. We all enjoyed the afternoon mainly because it wasn't like a school assembly. Sam V just wishes Patrick would write a sequel to her favourite book, 'More Than This'. Leanne thought the presentation was humorous, Lucy and Michael thought Patrick Ness was funny and rude and Adam loved the 'banter'!

By Shola L 8L1

The Rest Of Us Just Live Here, by Patrick Ness Review by Sam P

The Rest of Us Just Live Here is an interesting and unique book by Patrick Ness. It is based around the people who are not the chosen ones; those who just live their life around all the mayhem that is happening. It is a really good idea for a book, and it gives you a chance to see what it is like from the ordinary person's point of view: from the people who aren't the heroes and don't save the day. In each chapter there is a small paragraph about what is happening from the hero's perspectives.

I really enjoyed reading this book, and would recommend it to anyone who has either read Patrick Ness before, or enjoys unusual books. I would give this book 8/10.



Drop Everything and Read is a programme that gives everyone in years 7&8 (and their teachers) the chance to read for pleasure for 20 minutes in a different lesson each week. It helps encourage reading for those people who can't always find time for it.

D.E.A.R Readers (aka the Reading Ambassadors/Book Police/Golden Snitches) are a group of ten students responsible for supporting reading throughout years 7&8. We were chosen for the role because we all love books!! This term we have supported year 7 with the Book Buzz programme and the National Poetry Day competition. We are also looking at ways to help younger students find a book they would enjoy by offering 'surgeries' in the library next year.



Bonfire Night Descriptive Writing House Competition

Thank you to all the Year 7 students who entered this competition.

The winners:

First: Abbie F and Abbie-Lou C - Brindley

Second: Kier H - Cadbury

Third: Harvey J, Jack Y, Tom S – Eliot

Fourth: Elle M, Lauren M, Cameron C, Lachlan S,
Bobby W - Lanchester

Winning descriptive paragraph:

It was the 5th of November and the cold air wafted the smell of crackling flames into my cosy room. I snuggled down into my fluffy dressing gown, waiting patiently for the sky to be illuminated with vibrant colours. You could cut the atmosphere with a knife; everyone was watching ... waiting. Bang! The sound echoed through my room, shaking my eardrums as a burst of coloured flames danced with the stars and the spectacular moon against the backdrop, as if in a show. The finale fizzled as it flew across the sky.

By Abbie F and Abbie-Lou C (7B1)

Halloween Short Story House Competition

There were so many scary stories to choose from: thank you to years 7 and 8 for all the entertaining entries.

Winners:

First: Alex C – Cadbury

Second: Lueque P - Brindley

Third: Liliane M – Lanchester

Fourth: Libby T – Eliot

Death's Gargoyles by Alex C (7C1)

My father, James Clarke, was always going on business trips and was rarely ever home, so he brought gifts back all the time. To try and keep up the communication, he phoned us regularly but it wasn't the same because we only saw him in person on Christmas and my birthday.

Enough said ... this story has very little to do with that. This story is about some rock my dad got me for my birthday. Oh, I've forgotten to introduce myself: I'm Tom and it's my birthday. My dad couldn't make it so he mailed me the present. It was a rock with little gargoyles carved on it, all different: some with huge teeth too big for their mouths, others with wings made from bone. At first, I thought: why on earth has he got me this? Then I thought it was pretty good and put it on the windowsill.

I saw a note. It said, 'Keep the rock out of moonlight on Halloween'. I ignored it; I thought it was a joke but I regretted that the next night.

Something woke me at midnight. I saw the moonlight hit the stone, bouncing off a million ways. The rock split in two and all those little gargoyles, carved in the stone, jumped out, then grew as big as a fully grown man. They looked at me and laughed, then smashed the window and hurled themselves through.

They ran around wreaking havoc, even killing some people just by looking at them with their hideous faces and horrible glares. They flew around dropping people from tremendous heights, hot-wiring cars, even ransacking planes mid-flight. They almost launched a nuclear missile but during the countdown broke the control board.

I examined the stone once they had all run off and inside it said: 'If you are reading this then you freed the gargoyles of death. And so it is up to you to imprison them again. The only way you can do this is by spraying them with holy water. Then they shall return to this rock as prisoners once more.'

So I ran to the church, filled my water pistol with holy water and went to save my town. I ran from house to house, shop to shop, everywhere, spraying those gargoyles and watching their darkened spirits float to their prison.

It was over. I had saved the day and I vowed to keep that stone out of all moonlight. But ... I have a feeling that I missed a few gargoyles and that they will try to free their friends.

Just a week after all this happened, the rock went missing. This really annoyed me as I know that it was the remaining gargoyles that took it. So I, without any rest, must go on a search as I need to locate the stone before next Halloween.

But I'll tell you about that next time ...

Filming for National Poetry Day

by Faye T 9B2

Years 8,9,10 and 11 Book Club took a school trip to visit Avoncroft Museum of Historical Buildings to film a production of 'In the Orchard'. 'In the Orchard' is a poem about a one night stand and unrequited love written by Muriel Stuart. Our stars, Heather (y10) and Joseph (y9), found it incredibly awkward to film, because of the romantic nature of the poem. Filming the poem gave us a visual image of the poem and brought it to life in a way which we couldn't have achieved at school. Set designer, Leah (y9) said; 'It made you think deeper than what you can see on the page, and helped you read between the lines.' Thankfully, it was a beautiful day and we managed to get all the footage we needed in order to make the film. We handed it over to the IT technician who edited it in record time (thanks for that).

It wasn't all work though; we went on a tour of the museum and saw many old buildings including a WW2 bomb shelter! Going to Avoncroft not only improved our English skills, but also our historical knowledge. We were able to see historical buildings from a range of different periods.

The trip also was a good team bonding experience. We mixed with a number of different year groups, making stronger friendships. It was a great experience, and we've all learnt something eye opening and new. We hope we can do the same thing with a different poem next year.

If you would like to see our film, please follow the links to Book Club on the Library pages of Frog.



National Poetry Day 2015

by Sam P



For National Poetry Day, the Year 7 students all had to write a poem on the theme of 'Light'. All of the best poems were chosen from each class, and the writers of the winning poems attended a celebration tea party in the library. Each poem was read aloud and then judged by a panel of Year 8 students, to find an overall winner.

I was chosen to be one of these judges, and it gave me a unique insight into the creative ideas that the Year 7s used to write the poems. The poems were judged on 4 categories: language, rhythm, imagery and emotional intensity. Each of these categories was marked from 1 to 5, with the highest scoring student the winner.

The overall winner was Abbie-Lou C from Brindley, with an original and outstanding poem about how light was used throughout history.

A very close second place was Ellie H from Cadbury, followed by Emily R from Eliot, and finally Mason B from Lanchester.

Although only 4 prize-winners could be chosen, all of the poems were very well thought out and all of the winners showed skill in writing poetry.



The Match by Abbie-Lou C

The smell of burning wood filled the otherwise scentless air,
This simple match could make everyone stare.
Just a simple candle was all that was needed,
To lead once again the path the fire once led.

The cavemen used fire to keep themselves warm,
Yet we use it to heat things like chocolate and corn.
The Tudors used fire to see in the dark,
Yet we use it for decoration, to draw attention to art.

The flames have a history, a bond with mankind,
A bond like nothing else you can find,
A bond which kept both of our hearts burning,
And kept mankind's steam trains burning.

Youth Centre Fright Night!!

The Fright night at the Youth Centre was an amazing night, full of fun, games and much more. The Youth Committee team worked very hard and supported the staff by planning, setting up, and bringing the project together. The costumes were terrifying and the amount of effort people put in to the night showed us how much people were looking forward to it. Activities consisted of "The Mummy's Tomb" and "I'm a Celebrity" game - where you would put your hand in to the spiders web and guess what you were putting your hand into. We had over 80 young people attend, and, overall the night was full of fun and laughter and everyone had an amazing night!



By Zoe B



Remembrance

On Saturday 31st October we were asked to fill up the poppy boxes for the British Legion so a few of us went to help we had lots of fun and were only too pleased to take the boxes to the local shops. On Sunday 8th November 2015, we attended the memorial service where the British Legion personally thanked Woodrush for their help. Representatives from the Youth Committee and Management Team were asked to join the march through Wythall and Lauren and Megan laid the wreath.



Wythall Fun run

This year we approached the Fun Run in partnership with St Mary's Church and Coppice Primary School. The aim was for our Youth Committee and Management Team to work with the Youth Worker from St Mary's Church to train with children from the Coppice every Friday after School for a couple of months.

Over the weeks we increased the distance we ran which helped both us and the children. On the day of the fun run it was lovely that the children were excited for us to join them on the run. The money raised was £190.00 in sponsorship. In addition we were successful in being awarded £1000.00 from the Fun Run organisation towards the sensory garden in the new hub as we were recognised for our work within the community.



Supporting St Mary's Church Harvest Service

At the end of September we were invited to do an update on the school farm and the sensory garden at St Mary's Church. We attended both services at 9.00am and 10.30am. At the end of both services we sold plants, and the church ran a competition to grow the largest vegetables and these were raffled off at the end. The money raised from this and the plants has gone towards the sensory garden. Donations raised were £170.53. Chloe



Woodrush Community Hub opening soon...

We have long been awaiting the opening of Woodrush Community Hub – well the wait will soon be over! As final fittings are completed the building will be open to the school and community early in the new year!

The project was designed in order to give our further education students some much needed study and social space and to provide the community as a whole with new modern and vibrant facilities. The building includes, a **Café, Gym, Dance Studio, Youth Centre, Public and School Library** and also **Teaching and Meeting Space**.

For gym membership information please contact the Woodrush Sport Centre on lettings@woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

For more information on the development please contact Faye Parker on 01564 823777.
Youth and community



GET READY WOODRUSH

During the summer break, the youth committee and management team were privileged to be part of the Get Ready for Woodrush transition program, in which we were working with and supporting 35 new Year 7 students coming to Woodrush. The program lasted two weeks, the first week was about team building and getting to know one another. Lots of fun was had doing art, cooking, sports and various other activities. The highlight of the first week was the trip to Upton Warren where we encouraged the young ones to try new things and do things they might not usually do. The second week was drama, where they did a small play called "One World". At the end of the week, this was performed to immensely proud parents. When we meet the year 7s now around school we often ask how they are doing and they have older students they know they can approach.

By Hannah G and Megan B



Supporting the community at the Wythall Carnival

During the summer we were approached by the carnival committee to see if some of our youth centre members would help with the preparation for the carnival. On the morning of Saturday 22nd August, members of the Youth Committee and Management Team went to help. We litter picked, set up barriers and marked out areas for the stalls. The organisers were really grateful for all our hard work and we were pleased we could support our community with this popular event!



Youth Committee and Youth Management Team residential to Upton Warren

Our trip to Upton Warren was fun, exciting and, a great weekend for everyone. On the first day we went sailing, something not many of us had done before. We had to work together to set up our boats and sails and support each other. It enabled us to bond more as a team and spend time together. Sailing was fun despite being pushed into the lake on countless occasions!

The high ropes activity was next, which was a real test of our nerves, stretching us to gain better communication skills and determination. Then.....the activity we had all been waiting for...The King Swing. No one could say they weren't anxious whilst at the top of the 10m high pole before the plummet to the floor! However, as many would agree, the highlight of the night was the bonfire. The bonfire involved everyone getting together: singing, playing games, drinking hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows on tree sticks over the fire!! It was great to spend time together as a group just having fun and celebrating the work we do at the Youth Centre.

The next day was a mixture of kayaking, paddle-boarding and the immense kayak slide!!

Overall it was a great weekend for both staff and committee and one we shall remember forever.

Ollie H and Harry B-L

Arrowvale 5-a-side

Shannon, Morgan, Hannah, Leah, Jessie and Katie made up the Woodrush football team that visited Arrowvales 5-a-side tournament. The first game was a cagey affair that resulted in Woodrush narrowly losing to the eventual group leaders Walkwood.

St Bedes were the next opponents. A 4-1 win was achieved with the tenacity, skill and determination of Katie, Leah and Hannah leading the way. Jessie helped the team with a couple of braces.

The third game saw the true Woodrush spirit come to life. Jessie helped herself to a stunning hat-trick. Shannon and Morgan kept Ipsley at bay and a clean sheet was maintained. Leah got on the scoresheet too.

Woodrush have got to the finals
Well done girls

Mr Thewlis



Woodrush Girls 7 a side

Woodrush went to the 7-a-side tournament at Woodfield with four year 8s and 6 year 7 novices.

The first game saw Woodrush win 2-1 against Walkwood and this was followed by a very entertaining 5-2 loss to St Bedes, which once again saw Shannon make some great saves. At this stage Rachel C and Katie A were shooting for fun. Katie A was commanding the defence with panache. The final game saw Woodrush draw 0-0 with Ipsley. The girls waited anxiously to see if they had made the semis - they had! Katie F was a star and Leah, Jessie, Morgan and Hannah were a credit to the Woodrush cause. Unfortunately, the semi-final saw Woodrush lose to Woodfield 3-1, but despite this, they did fantastically well overall.

One last mention has to go to Charlie who played in all the positions on the pitch and all this whilst she was poorly.

Thank you girls and well done.

Mr Thewlis

Year 8 District League

Last week the year 8 team had two away matches against Ridgeway and Churchill. The team won their first match against Ridgeway by one goal, with a final score of 5-4. Well done to GA and GS Brooke M and Evie W who were determined to score. The team played Churchill in their second match and they were a very strong team. Unfortunately they lost 0-9 however they kept up their fighting spirit and remained positive until the final whistle. The team attacked the ball well although the tall and agile Churchill defenders were able to take any rebounds and quickly pass the ball down the court. Players' player as voted by the opposition was Abby D. Women of the matches as voted for by Miss Ford were Hannah B and Brooke M. Miss Ford

Year 7 and Year 8 netballers We need you!

If you are interested in joining netball after school either to trial for the team or just to play for fun, please come to after school sessions on Mondays 3-4pm. Please see Miss Ford for further details



Arrowvale 5-a-side

Congratulations to the following students who finished in the top ten in their respective races and have been selected to represent Redditch District at the Herefordshire and Worcestershire County Schools' Championships:

10th	Morgan T
10th	Katie F
9th	Emma D
7th	Ben E
5th	Sam F
3rd	Leah S
3rd	Alisha
2nd	Chris M
1st	Amber DD

Redditch 5-a-side

U12s competed in the Redditch 5-a-side indoor tournament. Initially competing against Ipsley, Walkwood and Woodfield. The tournament started badly as Woodfield beat Woodrush 4-1 with many errors and conceding 3 penalties. However after this the boys ground out two victories against Walkwood and Ipsley by 2-1. Sam F played exceptionally well scoring a couple of goals and George as captain was instrumental in guiding and supporting his teammates.

The following week the boys went in to a final battle against 3 other teams for a chance to compete in the midland finals. The first match was St Bedes, after some strong play unfortunately St Bedes went on to win 4-0, the boys were understandably

downbeat, however a superb Sam F strike ensured Woodrush went into the final round of fixtures with a chance of still topping the table beating Walkwood 1-0. Unfortunately, despite battling hard Woodrush boys lost 3-0 in final group game and finished 3rd in the table. A very good effort from all players good team effort.

Mr Virdee



Redditch District 7-a-side Football Tournament

Congratulations to the u13 boys football team who won the Redditch District 7 a side Football Tournament on Thursday 22nd October 2015.

Match 1: Woodrush High School (2) v Ridgeway Middle School (2)

The team got off to a perfect start thanks to George C's long distance effort. However, Ridgeway responded well and after equalising then took the lead. With only a few minutes remaining Ricardo D kept his composure to equalise for Woodrush. In the last minute of the game the result could have gone either way with Hayden P rattling the cross bar and Connor D making a fantastic save.

Match 2: Woodrush High School (3) v Ipsley Middle School (1)

Woodrush knew that after drawing their opening game only victories in their last two group matches would guarantee them a place in the semi-finals. Woodrush dominated this game and thanks to goals by Jacob S (1) and Jacob A (2) were comfortable winners.

Match 3: Woodrush High School (2) v Church Hill Middle School (0)

Connor Davis kept a clean sheet and goals by Jacob A and Hayden P following good work from Gabrielle H-B and Joel F meant that Woodrush were safely through to the semi-finals.

Semi Final: Woodrush High School (1) v Woodfield Middle School (0)

This was an incredibly close match with few chances for either team. Connor D kept a clean sheet again thanks to the superb defending of George C and Dan M-W. Woodrush played some great possession football and an excellent move was finished by Ricardo D who again showed remarkable composure in front of goal.

Final: Woodrush High School (5) v St Bedes (1)

Woodrush saved their best performance for last and despite going an early goal down the team didn't panic and played some superb football and were well deserved 5-1 winners (Hayden P 1, Ricardo D 1, George C 1 and Jacob S 2). Man of the tournament was awarded to Ricardo D for his overall team play and composure on the ball. However, the whole team (Connor D, Daniel M-W, George C, Gabrielle H-B, Ricardo D, Joel F, Jacob S, Jacob A and Hayden P) should be commended for their attitude, team work and performance.

Mr Maidment



Woodrush U16 boys football result

Woodrush under 16 boys football team drew 4-4 with Trinity High School. With a few players missing, Woodrush took to the field with a reshuffled team which saw Luke A in goal and the team playing a more traditional 4-4-2 formation. Woodrush started the game defending a number of attacks by Trinity who started the game well. Midway through the half Dion G picked up a slight injury and without a substitute to call upon decided to go in goal in place of Luke A who went into centre midfield to mark Trinity's captain and play maker. This tactic worked well and thanks to well taken goals by Corey G and Liam S Woodrush had a 3-1 lead at half time. The second half saw Trinity start to dominate possession as Woodrush tired and sat back on their lead. With five minutes remaining Woodrush had a narrow 4-3 lead thanks to Liam S who completed his hat-trick. Unfortunately, with only a few minutes remaining a soft shot somehow managed to squeeze under stand in keeper Dion G. Although, the result had the feel of a defeat the team should be pleased with their efforts.

Liam S man of the match.

Under 12 County Cup

U12 County Cup fixture between Woodrush and Tudor Grange. A last minute decision and the game goes ahead after a pitch inspection due bad weather the previous evening. Woodrush approached the game knowing that they would secure a place in the semi-finals and all the boys were pumped and ready especially after a Mr McDowell special team talk. The pitch was ideal for some good strong challenges and for most of the first half the game was played in the middle of the pitch and there was some tenacious tackling from George H. With the game looking locked at 0-0 Trumael D scored a beautiful hit strike from the edge of the centre circle. Woodrush went 1-0 up at half time. 2nd half and Woodrush were in danger of being hit in the break until a counter attack move started by George and some great play by Harvey J and Sam F scoring to make it 2-0.

Tudor Grange then struck back after some outstanding saves by Christian H. With the game nearing the end and Woodrush holding on, Lewis B instigated a switch on the right wing with Alfie R and then a great move by Woodrush sealed the victory and Alfie R scoring the 3rd. Woodrush win 3-1. Lewis Man of the Match!

Mr Virdee and Mr McDowell



New School Records

Year 10 boys 200m : Dion G 25.11 secs
 Year 9 girls 400m : Lucy F 69.06 secs
 Year 8 girls 400m : Leah S 69.02 secs
 Year 7 boys 100m : Hayden P 13.44 secs
 Year 8 boys long jump : Elliot R 4.78m

Year 7

1	Elliot	222
2	Brindley	169
3	Lanchester	144
4	Cadbury	121

Year 9

Lanchester	148
Brindley	132
Cadbury	123

Year 8

1	Lanchester	216
2	Cadbury	188
3	Brindley	148
4	Elliot	113

Year 10

Lanchester	147
Brindley	134
Cadbury	110

KS3

1	Lanchester	360
2	Elliot	335
3	Brindley	317
4	Cadbury	309

Year 11

Lanchester	295
Brindley	266
Cadbury	233

MONDAY DANCE CLUB

In the first half-term of the autumn term we have focused on key contemporary dance techniques, and dance actions; turn, jump, travel, gesture and balance/stillness, through our warm up sequences and corner work. The KS3 group have attempted small pieces of choreography underpinning the key fundamentals of dance through the theme of FROZEN leading up to the Christmas Concert.



Emma S a year 9 student, has also been given the opportunity to develop her own piece of choreography and she has gone on to lead and teach the students in dance club. Emma has chosen the style of rock 'n' roll, a new and challenging style for all students, yet they have thoroughly enjoyed this new experience, particularly the partner work sessions.

Emma's rock 'n' roll piece to Rock'A Robin by Jackson 5, will also be performed at the Christmas Concert. We are very proud of all the students in dance club and their achievements. The students in Dance Club are very much looking forward to the Christmas Concert and

are excited to perform!
Miss Allen





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12 Month Contract	Staff and Sixth Form Woodrush Discount	£16.50

For more details, or to join, please contact Woodrush Sports Centre in the NEW YEAR 2016!

NO Joining Fee! - For the first 50 members!
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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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