



WOODRUSH
STAR

Issue 38
Summer 2019

Inspire
Achieve
Celebrate



Year 7 Boys Athletics Team

Winners of the Redditch district competition
& silver medalists at the Woodrush school games.



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Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of our school publication, 'The Woodrush Star'.

It never fails to amaze me of the achievements of our young people through the support of our wonderful staff and strong partnerships with our families.

Since the last edition of 'The Star', just a few months ago, there have been many opportunities for students to excel in a range of fields. In sport, KS3 girls took part in an event to raise participation levels in girls and confidence and self-esteem through the event 'Worcester Girls Can', where they took part in Boxercise, Zumba and yoga. Impressively, the Year 7 Boys Athletics Team won silver medal at the Worcestershire School games and, the Year 11 Boys Football team won the Worcestershire Schools County Cup 4-2 in an especially dramatic game, as the win occurred during extra time! As highlights within the high participation of students in enrichment in PE, these events give you a small insight into the opportunities our students have within sports.

Similarly, within the English faculty, students and staff rose to the challenge of the House competition of writing a poem entitled 'An Ordinary World'. Within their English lessons, students were supported to explore the theme before the competition launch. The competitive element of winning house points, as well as the interesting theme, inspired so many people to take part. Staff and student commended entries were shared in staff briefing and in assemblies. The quality of work was fantastic to see!

Furthermore, the Creative Arts department presented 'A Night at the Oscars', with film-themed performances, where students showed confidence and skill in their performances. The event celebrated all aspects of the Creative Arts with a variety of performances from students within KS3 and KS4. There certainly was much to celebrate with the display of Art, Drama, Music and Dance, on show. Well done to all those students involved!

As part of our strong pastoral programme, Aspire, students have had opportunities to go to the Worcestershire skills show, take part in Red Nose day and visit a careers fair in school, with a whole host of visitors in to talk about different careers. A particular highlight of our pastoral programme this term was the visitor, Alison Cope, who came in to talk to students about the consequences and realities of knife crime. We thank her for her time in talking to our students with such sensitivity and honesty, and for her bravery in sharing her story with us. Students and staff were certainly moved by the experience and the impact of the message from her talk, was very clear.

We have been delighted to welcome our newest member of the school: Ruby, our reading and therapy dog, who is based in learning support. She is already having a positive impact on students who need additional support. There are strict guidelines for the way in which staff and students must interact with Ruby, so that she can have the greatest impact in school.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents who attended our parent and carer forum. We value your feedback and are using your ideas to further develop our partnership. In the latest forum, topics such as the new website, trips, homework and The Parent Partnership Award, were all discussed. Please look out for forum dates in the future, to be able to communicate your views with us. If you are unable to attend the forums but want to give us feedback on the agenda for the next forum, please contact the school, so we can hear your views.

Please enjoy this edition of 'The Woodrush Star' and celebrate your son/ daughter's achievements with us.

From all of us at Woodrush, we hope you have a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing students back with us on Wednesday 4th September 2019

Ms N. Rancins

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Doing my D of E Bronze Award was amazing and actually a once in a lifetime experience, to spend the weekend with your friends and to have a really memorable time. Of course on the day we completed our expedition it was raining and stormy, but the rain was what made us keep going and persevere to get to the campsite faster! Our aim as a group was to take pictures of anything beginning with A-Z, so that was also something that made us keep going and see what other things we could find on our way.

My favourite part of the expedition was definitely doing call and response with the group and singing out loud to our hearts content as we got close to the end point.

Year 10 Pupil



Mr Watson

All of us here at Woodrush would like to say goodbye and good luck to Mr Watson who will be leaving us this summer. Thank you for all of your hard work, enthusiasm and for inspiring all of our pupils, you will be missed!



Mrs Croxall

Congratulations to Mrs Croxall who will be starting her new job as an Assistant Head Teacher in September. You have brought so much to the school and inspired both staff and pupils. Thank you for all of your hard work and we wish you the best of luck in your new role.



Maths

UK Maths challenge Junior Maths Challenge

On the 30th April, 30 students from Year 7 and 8 took part in the UKMT's Junior Maths Challenge. The Maths challenge is run by the University of Leeds and aims to test pupils' problem solving skills through a series of tricky multiple choice puzzles.

The Woodrush Maths department would like to say a huge congratulations to the following students: Paddy P, Freddie W, Joe F and Robbie R who all achieved a silver award. Harley M, Maddie S, Jayden H and Gabby C who all achieved a bronze award.

And finally Joe M (Year 8) who scored an astounding 75 marks and achieved a gold award!

A big thank you to all pupils who took part, there were some truly brilliant scores.



New Addition to the Woodrush School Community.

We have had an exciting new addition to Woodrush during this summer term; our Reading and Therapy Dog – Ruby.

Ruby is based in our Student Support Centre in the forthcoming academic year. Ruby is a Golden Retriever and has been chosen due to her calm temperament and loyal nature. Ruby has undergone some training so that she can be fully integrated into school life. Her training continues!

Why have we chosen to have a reading and therapy dog?

The value of pet 'therapy' is widely accepted as a powerful aid to stimulation and communication. Studies have shown that the presence of companion animals can improve the well-being of children and lower the rate of anxiety, simply by making the environment happier, more enjoyable and less forbidding.

We appreciate that not all pupils will like dogs, although we hope Ruby will help alleviate some fears and we are extremely mindful of allergies.

Ruby will only be allowed in designated areas of the school and if students or teachers do not want to have contact with the dog then we will make sure that this does not happen. At no point will Ruby be left without an adult and if she is moving around school, she will be on a lead at all times. There will be strict rules in place for when students are allowed to interact with Ruby so that she does not get overwhelmed by the crowds.

We are so excited and feel very privileged to be adding Ruby to our team!!

Ruby is kindly being sponsored by the local veterinary practice YourVets on the Alcester Road in Wythall.



YourVets

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Alcester Road, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6AP

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www.yourvets.co.uk

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Who are we?

YourVets began in 1997 as the pet vaccination clinic, and our skilled and caring team has now grown to more than two hundred, including vets, nurses, pet health advisors and reception staff.

When are we open?

Mon - Fri 9am – 8pm

Sat 9am – 4pm

Sun - Closed

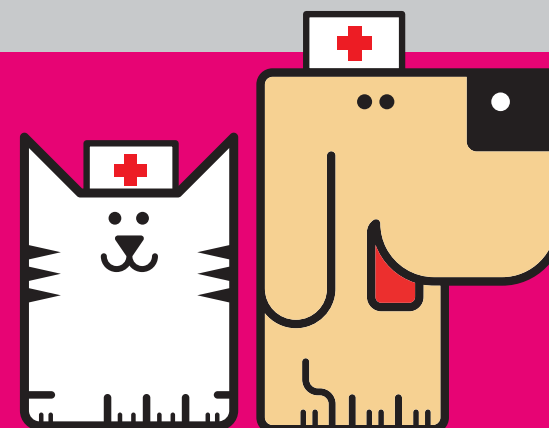
We offer appointments from 10-6 Monday to Friday and all day Saturdays.

At nights, weekends and bank holidays we offer an out-of-hours emergency service from our Solihull and Smethwick branches.

Why are we different?

Our reduced rate vaccinations and neutering are available to all pet-owners. They are so popular that more than 80% of our customers visit us after a recommendation by friends and family.

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OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCY VET

We run our own 24hr emergency service from our Solihull and Smethwick branches. If you have an emergency outside of our normal opening hours please call:

Solihull 0121 647 4100
Smethwick 0121 516 1999

jennifer collier

On Wednesday 12th June, our Year 10 Art students visited the working Studio of artist Jennifer Collier.

When Jennifer is not running workshops, she is a successful practising artist with her own Gallery in Stafford. She works closely with the National Trust and has completed several commissions for them across the country. She also completes pieces for 'White Stuff' the clothing company and has had pieces exhibited at The Birmingham Library, Botanical Gardens Kew, Milan Design Week, Birmingham Children's Hospital and many more.

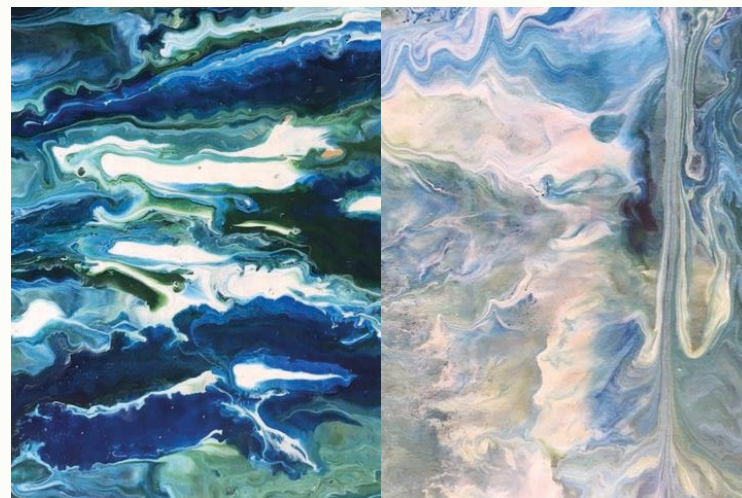


The students had a great day, experimenting and sample making. Jennifer showed them lots of different techniques, which included bonding, trapping, layering, waxing and adding latex to unusual materials, such as plastic bags, leaves, petals, teabags, feathers and buttons. The samples were then collated in a handmade sketchbook.

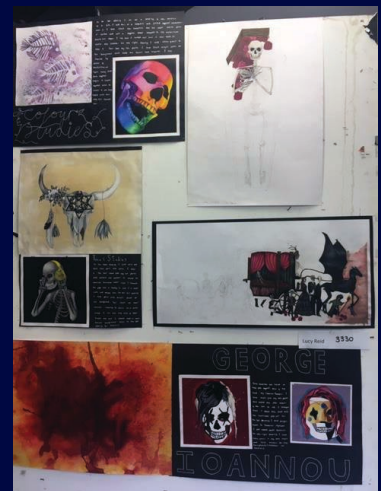
Students were then asked to develop these skills further in school into more personal relevant responses based on their current unit theme 'Alter'.



Year Ten Acrylic Pouring



Year eleven end of year exhibition





WYTHALL CARNIVAL PROGRAMME COMPETITION

Our Year 7 Art students had the opportunity to design the front cover for the Wythall Carnival which will be held on the 11th August.

We had some fantastic entries and all of our students really made the most of the fun activity which allowed them to partake in functional Art.

The winning entry came from Isabel H in 7E1. Isabel won a £10 prize and her design printed on the Carnival Programme. Lacey D 7L1, Ella H 7L1 and Eve F 7B2 were all runners up and received £5 each.

The following students also achieved A3s for their excellent effort and designs Jamie C and Dylan N. Well done Year 7!



YEAR 7 PACKAGING STUDIES

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

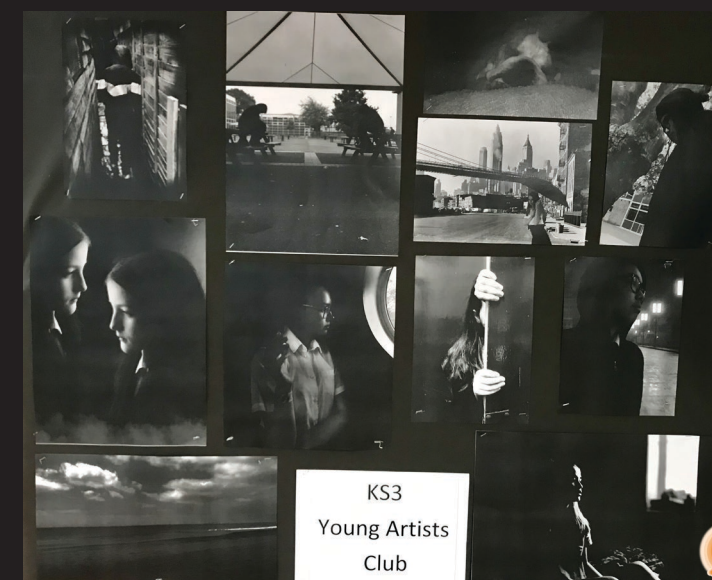
YEAR 9 CLAY TILES



YEAR 10 ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN



YEAR 8 YOUNGER ARTISTS CLUB



KS3 Young Artists Club

WOODRUSH NIGHT AT THE OSCARS

An evening of film themed performances.

Woodrush Does A Night at the Oscars

The Fantastic Creative Arts Department put together a celebration of all things film this summer, with a selection of Art, Drama, Music and Dance performances.

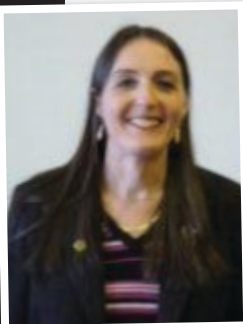
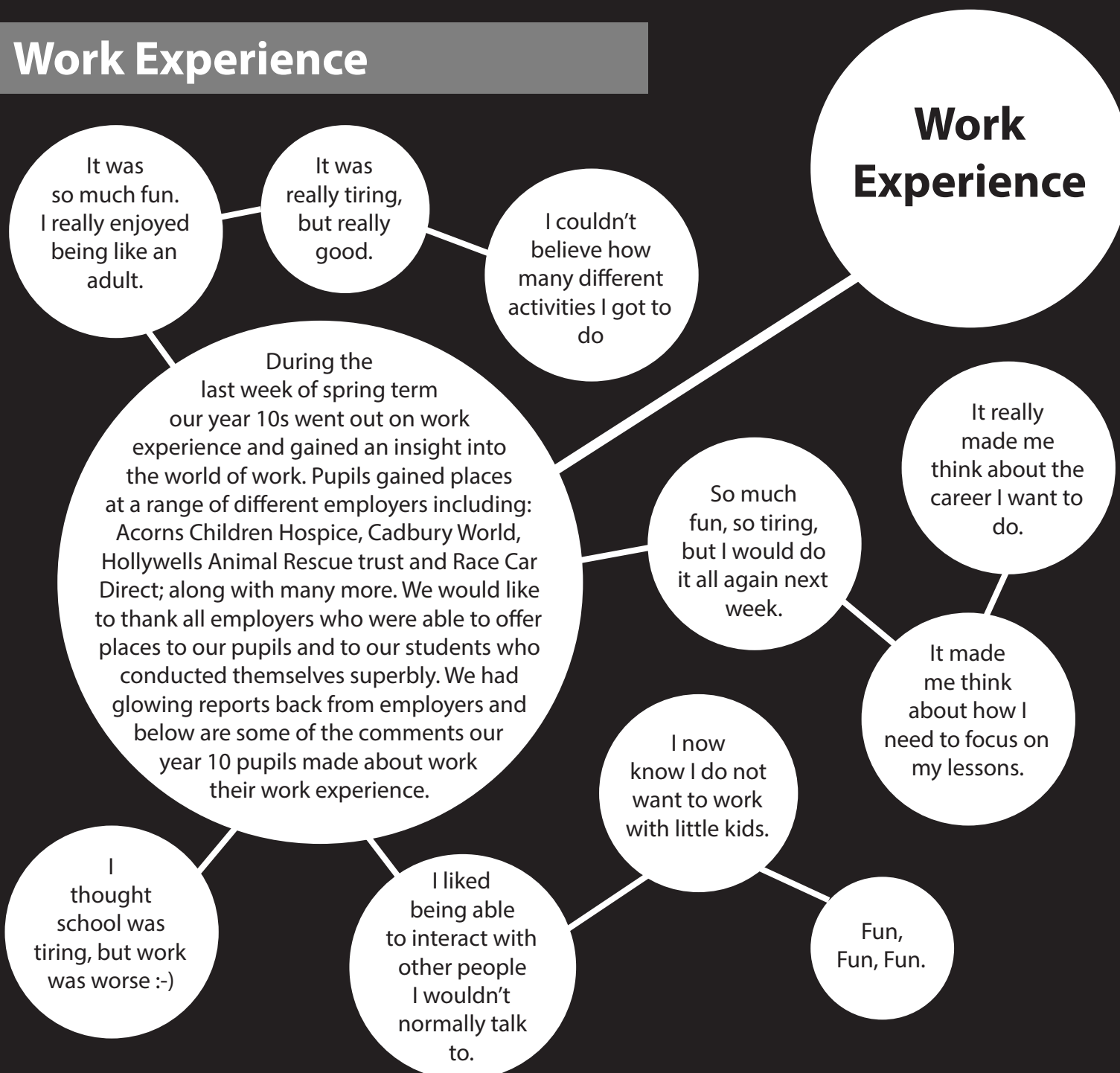
Musical performances from our solo vocalists, Year 7 Band, Year 9 & 10 GCSE groups and Woodrush Voices made for an excellent evening. Key Stage 3 Drama Club performed an original film screenplay written by them and GCSE students performed a selection of film scripts. Musical Theatre Club performed an extract from the 1968 film Oliver! Piano soloists performed pieces from Titanic, Up and Bohemian Rhapsody and Dance performers wowed the audience with selected performances from Deadpool 2 and Five Feet Apart.

A hot food van and the selling of popcorn and ice cream got us all in the film festival mood and made for a fantastic evening.

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!

Thursday 20th June 2019
7pm

Work Experience

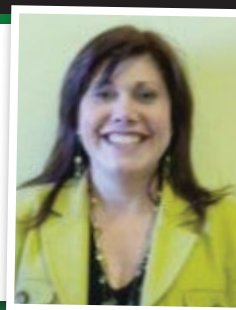


Mrs Courts

Mrs Courts is one of the members of staff who has worked here at Woodrush the longest. Mrs Courts has been an essential figure during her time here and has taken on several roles including Head of Maths and Data Manager. We would like to say a massive thank you for all of your hard work and dedication; and for playing such a vital role within Woodrush. We would like to wish you the best of luck and hope you enjoy your time following Birmingham City both nationally and internationally as well as spending time with your Grandson.

Mrs Jarvis

Our HR Manager, Mrs Jarvis, left us in June and we would like to say a big farewell and good look in her new role. Mrs Jarvis started working as a receptionist here at Woodrush and took on several roles before becoming HR Manager; she has supported many staff greatly and will be missed by all. We wish you the best of luck in your future.



DT

Food | Textiles | Product Design | Food | Textiles | Product Design | Food | Textiles | Product Design



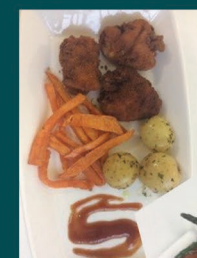
Product Design

Food

Textiles



Year 9



Year 10



This was once a white t-shirt + pair of pyjama bottoms!

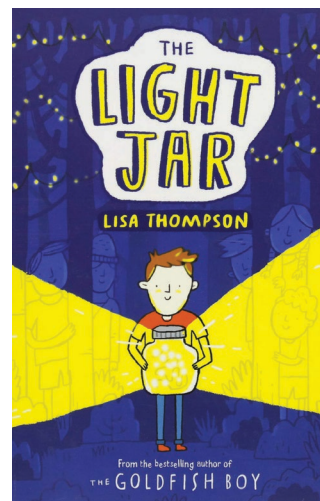


Library

Children's Book Award 2019

The Woodrush year 7 book club students have been reading and reviewing three teenage fiction books and three junior fiction books. These were: Storm Keeper's Island, The Light Jar, The Armistice Runner, Mr Penguin – The Fortress of Secrets, Funny kid – Stand Up, The dog who Lost his Bark.

Firstly, let's talk about the winning votes at Woodrush. Our teenage fiction favourite was The Light Jar. This is a book about an eleven year old boy, Nate, who finds a magic light jar. This helps him solve a mystery with his neighbour Kitty. Although this was not Poppy's usual style of book, it was heart-warming and emotional and she enjoyed it very much. Now onto our junior fiction favourite - The Dog who Lost his Bark. This charming book is about a boy called Patrick who gets a new dog over the summer, he named him Oz. Patrick uses the healing power of music to get Oz's bark back.



One of our second favourite books was Funny Kid, a junior fiction book. This is about a boy called Max who wanted to win the talent show, but there were many obstacles along the way. Elise thought "it was very silly, not the best but a very good quick read."

Nationally, the overall winners for each category were Armistice Runner and The Dog who Lost his Bark. The Armistice Runner was a very moving and emotional book about a girl who is struggling to cope with her grandmother's growing dementia. When she finds her grandfather's diary it could be just the thing to help re-motivate her.

We have enjoyed reading these very different books and going to the Hive to discover which books had won for each category. If you would like to read any of them, they are all available in the library.

By Daisy, year 7

Bear Hunt

On Tuesday 21st May 2019, to mark thirty years since the publication of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' re-told by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury, Wythall Library hosted an event for young children to take part in a re-creation of the book. This book has been around for thirty years now; it has been a part of many people's lives and will be for generations to come. The event was planned and run by the student librarians and the year 10 students on work experience in the library that week. The young children who

attended the event were guided on the bear hunt, through a river, mud, a forest and a snow storm all created by our student librarians with paper, scissors, glue and a lot of imagination. After the performances everyone got to take part in bear-related activities and enjoy snacks and drinks.

By Jake, year 10



Our trip to the Hive

On Wednesday the 12th June, year 7 book club went on a trip to the Hive library in Worcester. There were four other schools at this event: Alvechurch Middle School, Christopher Whitehead, Pershore and Blessed Edward. During the event we took part in three different activities: The tour, the book blitz and book-based activities organised by students from each of the schools.

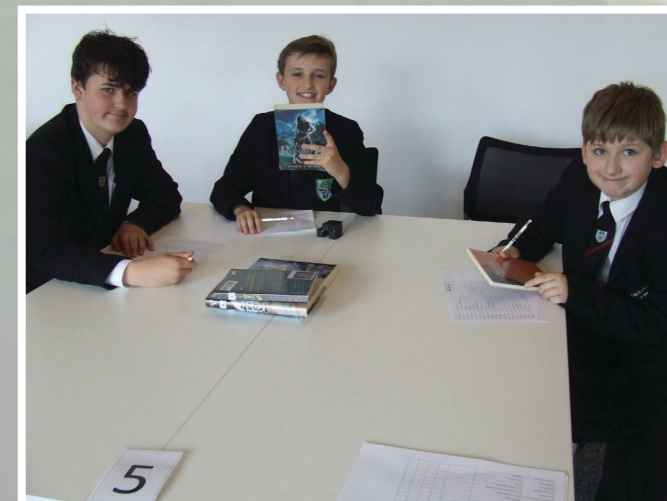
The tour was exactly what it sounds like, a member of staff took people round in groups to see the library. One of our student librarians, James, said "I enjoyed the tour of the library. The Hive is cool. It's big, there's an amazing amount of books and different areas, displays and exhibitions." He added "I also liked meeting up with students we had met before at student librarian workshops."

In the book blitz, students were given a varied selection of books, they then had to judge them on the cover, blurb and opening lines and then put them in the order of which they'd like to read the most. This allowed us to explore different authors and genres, and to find something new to read.

All the school activities were very different. Alvechurch did an activity where you took a bit of a picture from an illustrated book and had to guess what the book was and who illustrated it. Other activities included author anagrams, matching titles to the authors and identifying the book from the quote.

After everyone had done all three activities, all schools got together and the winners for each activity were announced. Congratulations to Elise and Narmitha from Woodrush who both won a book. At the end, we were told about being a reading hack. A reading hack is a young person who volunteers in public libraries encouraging reading for pleasure in the community. Wythall library is recruiting reading hacks, aged between 12 and 24 to help young children taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge. It is a really fun opportunity to make a difference during the summer holidays. If you are interested in volunteering please ask any member of library staff.

By Poppy, Year 7



Teams



U12 Football
Worcestershire County Cup,
Redditch District 9 a side
Redditch District 7 side
Redditch District 5 a side
competitions.



Cross Country
Y7-13 Redditch District
Competition at Abbey Stadium
(Redditch)
November 2018



Well done Henry F
18th in the English
Schools cross country
championship
and was the best
Herefordshire and
Worcestershire
finisher across all age
groups!



Hockey



U13 Football
Worcestershire County Cup,
Redditch District 11 a side
Redditch District 9 a side



Dance



Badminton
Redditch District Competition at
Tudor Grange (Redditch)
Year 8 Team
January 2019



Cross Country
Y7-13 Redditch District Competi-
tion at Abbey Stadium (Redditch)
November 2018



Worcestershire Girl Can



Tennis



Rowing
Well done to all the students that
took part in the inter-house boat
race!



Rugby
Woodrush students enjoying
Worcester Warriors coaching
sessions.



Rowing
In the team events both
Woodrush Boys teams finished in
second place.



The top 4 boys and girls were
selected to represent Woodrush
at the Redditch District rowing
competition



Badminton
Redditch District Competition at
Tudor Grange (Redditch)
Year 7 Team
January 2019



Cross Country
Y7-13 Redditch District
Competition at Abbey Stadium
(Redditch)
November 2018



Cross Country
Y7-13 Redditch District
Competition at Abbey Stadium
(Redditch)
November 2018



Cross Country
Y7-13 Redditch District
Competition at Abbey Stadium
(Redditch)
November 2018



Rugby
Well done to y7&8 Boys and Girls
that represented Woodrush at
the Redditch and Bromsgrove
District Touch Rugby Festival.



Gymnastics



Congratulations to Thomas P
(Y7E1) and Danny T (Y8L1) received
gold medals for their individual
performances and have been
selected to represent Redditch



Year 7 Athletics
Congratulations to the y7
boys sports hall athletics team
who won the Redditch District
competition and were silver
medalists at the Woodrush
School Games.

WOODRUSH COMMUNITY HUB

RUSH YOGA

FREE for Members

Monthly membership £18.50 off peak | £21 peak

Non-members 1st class FREE

£6.50 for 1 | £30 for 5 | £55 for 10*

TIMETABLE

MONDAYS: 1:30pm-2:00pm Assisted Yoga

WEDNESDAYS: 6:00pm-7:00pm Ashtanga Yoga

TUESDAYS: 9:50am-10:30am Hatha Yoga

THURSDAYS: 10:15am-10:45am Vinyasa Yoga

T. 01564 820 099 E. info@woodrushsportscentre.co.uk

www.woodrushcommunityhub.co.uk | Shawhurst Lane, Wythall, B47 5JW

*Terms & Conditions apply, contact us for more details



Ordinary World - 2019 House Poetry Competition

First Place and Overall Winner: Abuse of Power – Kiya Y 9B1

Black and yellow like a bumblebee
Shimmering 2B etched into the side
Crafted cedar wood protects the core
Billions of delicate layers of graphite.

Yet hours of drawing, scribbling and doodling
Using millions of layers of graphene
All these weak bonds broken
Just for a mess in the top right-hand corner of my page.

Erased, only to start all over again
Abusing and manipulating millions of layers of graphene
Although it is an everyday use of carbon
I can only imagine what it could have been.

A diamond, a jewel – a different configuration
Another thousand years along
People would be hunting for this precious little rock
Just be to embed in an extortionate watch.

Editor: Mrs S. Baker
E: woodrushstar@woodrush.org
W: www.woodrushhigh.worcs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Ms N Rancins
Woodrush High School,
An Academy for Students Aged 11-18
Shawhurst Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire, B47 5JW
T: 01564 823777 F: 01564 820092



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The Woodrush Star is published by Woodrush High School

We often use pictures, names and videos of students for publicity purposes in our newsletter 'The Woodrush Branch', and our magazine the Woodrush Star as 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.

Design: Paul Mitchell www.pmdesign.co

