



WOODRUSH STAR

Issue 39
Winter 2019

Inspire
Achieve
Celebrate



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Welcome to our Christmas edition of our Woodrush Star which enables our school community to share some of the learning opportunities which take place during the year.

Some of the content of the edition took place in the summer term, and several exciting trips took place in the final few weeks, notably: Wimbledon, D of E Expedition, Arvon writing residential, Weymouth, and Blackwell adventure.

During the summer, we were delighted with our GCSE results; seeing our students receiving their results never ceases to impact on us all, we were incredibly proud of their achievements and delighted that many students have returned into our sixth form.

As we move into the Autumn term, Woodrush life has been as full as ever! We launched our new Knowledge Organiser homework with years 7 and 8, the sixth form raised £526.89 for Macmillan Cancer charity, and we have, as always had a tremendous number of trips out: several theatre trips, Kew Gardens, Malvern Festival of Innovation, Geography, History and English Literature coursework support, amongst others.

Within our ASPIRE Programme students have had a variety of experiences and opportunities to learn. We were appreciative of PC Albutt who gave time to visit us earlier in the term, to reinforce the message of knife crime prevention to keep our young people safe. Additionally, we supported Anti bullying week, Children in Need and Mental Health Day, recruiting student well-being mentors who, in addition to staff, are available to support students each Tuesday lunchtime.

Furthermore, our interview day, which has become one highlight of the year for year 11, saw the whole of the year group take part in a mock interview afternoon. Many of the interviews took place with external visitors, which is such a valuable experience for our young people. Thank you if you were able to support us.

Additionally, our year 7 students have settled in extremely well to school – some taking part in additional transition experiences in the summer with our Youth Centre, and all, being inducted into the 'Woodrush Way' to ensure their smooth transition into understanding our ethos and practices. The top achievers in the year group have enjoyed breakfast with Mrs Desmond, as part of their reward.

Our Year 8 students studying Mandarin have received a certificate for passing their first year of the Mandarin Excellence Programme and should feel proud of their achievements.

Woodrush sports teams continue to dominate the local leagues and particularly notable are our netball teams, who have been performing well in the Redditch District league.

We are thrilled that one of our year 9 students, Laura, has been selected for a place in the National GB team to compete in the World Martial Arts games. What an amazing achievement!

Our annual Christmas concert was a delightful evening enabling us to celebrate all of the Arts and included wonderful performances from students in KS3, 4 and 5. Furthermore, our annual Awards evening gave the opportunity to celebrate students' achievements in a range of subjects and for a variety of reasons. It is a lovely opportunity for staff, students and parents/carers to reflect on the past year's successes. Thank you to our guest speaker, Mark Hoban, for helping us to celebrate!

Finally, I would like to thank our parents and carers for their continued support and to Woodrush staff for their hard work and commitment to Woodrush students, without which these experiences would not occur. On that note, we are delighted to have been re-awarded the Leading Parent Partnership award. Thank you to parents, staff and students for their continued support and partnership.

I hope you enjoy this Christmas edition and learning more about the Woodrush community.

From all of us at Woodrush, we wish you all a fantastic Christmas and look forward to seeing you in January.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ms N. Rancins.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate European Day of Languages on 24th September students had a delicious European menu on offer in the canteen. This included chicken souvlaki, patatas bravas, paella, greek salad, ratatouille and beef bourguignon!

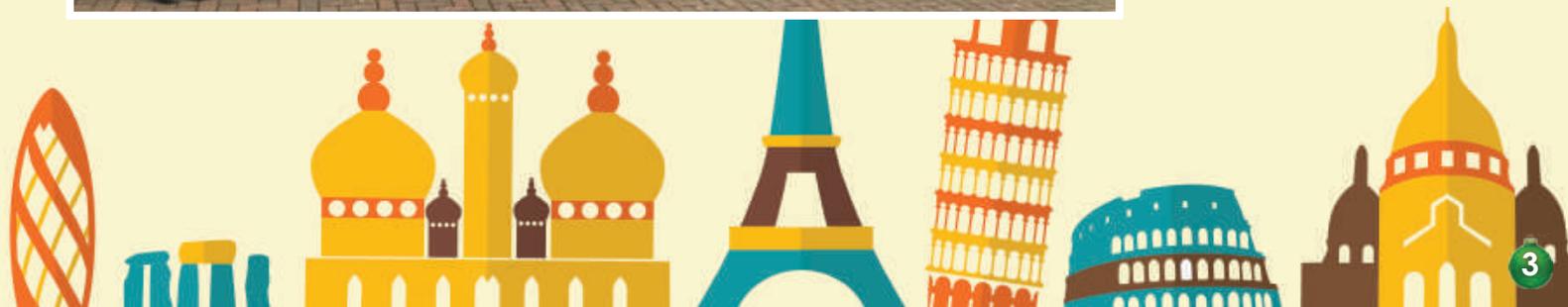
We had a lots of entries for our European Quiz from Year 7 and a special congratulations must go to Mia (7E2), Millie (7E2) and Noah (7C1) who all had the most correct answers. Kadie-Jay (7C2) and James (7C1) won the house competition for designing the best logo for European Day of Languages. They all won some achievement points for their houses. Well done!



Mandarin - MFL

你好! Nǐ hǎo!

We are excited to have welcomed our second cohort of year 7 students who are studying Mandarin. Our students have already learned how to count to 99, describe their family and pets and they can write some Chinese characters accurately. The year 7 class has shown commitment and enthusiasm for learning their new language and are attending their extra lessons after school. Students are learning about the culture of Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai and in January they will be celebrating Chinese New Year with some cookery lessons! Our year 8 class received their Hurdle Test results at the start of the term and we are delighted with their achievement. All students passed the first year and some achieved 100% on their reading and listening exams! A special mention to Isabel who got full marks on all four assessments. The MFL department would also like to welcome Mrs Chen, our new Mandarin teacher. Mrs Chen has settled in brilliantly to Woodrush and is already making a big impact on students' progress.



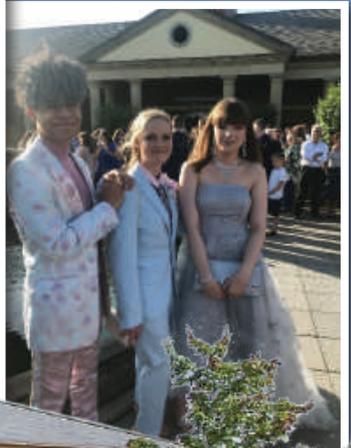
Year 11 Leavers' Prom

The Year 11 Leavers' Prom 2019 was held on 27th June at the Lake at Barston. Congratulations to all Year 11s for completing their GCSEs and we wish them the best of luck with their results and in the future. All were a credit to the school and we hope they enjoyed their evening!

Mrs Desmond



Ethan P Prom King and Rafaela M as Prom Queen



WHS Sixth Form

Sixth form in action raising money Fright Night at Youth centre

On Tuesday 22nd October, our Sixth Formers worked alongside the Youth Centre volunteering to bring together a Fright Night for lower school students to enjoy. Over the course of the night they worked hard on different activities such as the Mummy scare room, Fright trail, Cookie decorating and face painting. Sixth formers dressed up in fright theme costumes, they all looked amazing, making a real effort to make sure the event was first class. The youth centre saw numbers of over 120 young people through the doors dressed up in their finest fright costumes. The atmosphere was buzzing and I'm sure all who attended had a great night. Due to their hard work and effort all monies raised on the night were donated to Sixth Form to add to fundraising for our memorial garden.



'Star' Bakers for Macmillan!

On Friday 27th September Woodrush Sixth Form hosted events as part of Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' to raise money for cancer care and support. Our Sixth Formers worked together tirelessly with plenty of baking and donations. Their efforts raised an amazing £526.89 and Macmillan wrote to us afterwards to say "We hope you felt proud as everyone came together to tuck into all those delicious treats. Whether it was with cake, a cuppa or clinking glasses, you did something extraordinary". Our Sixth Formers should rightly feel delighted with their team efforts from setting up Break-time tea, coffee and cakes for staff, to selling to the public in the Hub, to running a cake sale to Years 7 – 11 at lunchtime and to organising various extra competitions and games. The photos give something of the flavour of the day and our competition winners were Mrs. Bishop who correctly guessed the number of cherries in the pie, Mrs Peters who drew raffle number 33 and won the delicious home-baked cake kindly donated by Mrs. Leach and Sixth former Jamie W. who admirably won our 'Dunk the Biscuit' game. The last word goes to Macmillan: "The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is nothing without you, so thank you so 'berry' much for your donation of £526.89. Every penny raised will help Macmillan be right there for even more people living with cancer, offering emotional, physical and financial support to those who need us. Without people like you this wouldn't be possible."



Mr. Cooper and the Sixth Form Team

Knife Crime Assemblies

On Tuesday 8th October, the Sixth Form Drama group performed the piece on knife crime to the whole school.

They had been working on a style of theatre in class called Verbatim Theatre. This is where you are only allowed to use the words said by other people in interviews. This includes every pause, hesitation and repetition. The five students went around the school and interviewed staff and students on their thoughts and experiences of knife crime. They then turned these interviews into transcripts and created some movement to accompany them.

This piece was performed in front of every year group. A lot of positive comments were received from staff and students. They did exceptionally well and I am so proud of their first performance!

Miss Rackham



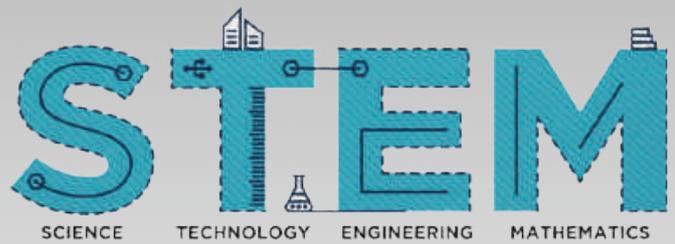
Science

On Mondays afterschool a group of year 7 and 8 students take part in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club. The club is led by teachers and technicians from maths, science and technology looking at completing challenges across all the subjects. So far students have designed and made their own towers, used Lego to make cars, made flammable snakes, set fire to their teachers and make rainbow coloured fizz.

More recently, the students have completed the BP Ultimate STEM Challenge. Wearable technology is changing our world. From smartwatches that monitor our health to shoes that can change colour to match each outfit, the possibilities are endless. So, this year, the Ultimate STEM Challenge is for students to come up with amazing ideas for new wearable tech that will improve our lives in the future. There are some brilliant prizes up for grabs; from trips to the BP learning centre to up to £750 for the STEM club. Entries have now been submitted and results will be revealed in January.

They are currently completing a Bronze Crest Award from the British Science Association. Students work independently or in groups to plan and run a project addressing a real-world STEM problem. The topic chose was to how to make a rollercoaster faster. Students will research into the science behind roller-coaster, then design and make their rollercoasters and then look at how they can make it faster.

If you are interested in joining STEM club speak to Miss Hollingworth, Mrs Pearson, Mr Borg or Miss Smith.



Maths

Sumdog

During year 7 and 8's maths lessons over the last few weeks they have been taking part in an online competition testing their mathematical knowledge. The online programme Sumdog gets pupils to play games by answering maths problems. Classes in both years have been into the computer rooms to compete against other schools in the county to get the most correct answer. Two of our classes were daily winners. Well done to 8A1 and 8B3 for their hard work for getting the most correct answers in a day.

A huge congratulation to 8B1 who came third in the whole competition and to Zak A. in Year 8. who answered correctly more questions than anyone else in the school. Sumdog can be accessed at any time not only when there is a competition. Each child in year 7 and 8 has a log in to access the website and it is a great tool to use both in school and at home to engage with maths.



School assembly celebration

Naryan presented to the year 8 group on Sikhism and the celebration of Guru Nanak.

"He was absolutely fantastic and I am majorly impressed with how he conducted himself. It really was a great demonstration of courage and communication skills for the rest of the year group and it really provided them with an enriching educational experience on Sikhism which they may not otherwise have much knowledge of." Mr McDowell



Birmingham City Mission

Shoe Box Launch

Every Christmas BCM distributes gifts to over 2,500 children in Birmingham who would otherwise not receive presents on Christmas day. It is a mammoth task that relies on the generosity of schools like us to give toys to ensure every child receives a sack of gifts.

The ToyLink Project

Thousands of books, puzzles (not jigsaws), cuddly toys, games, chocolates, sweets, toiletries etc.- even second hand toys that are in good condition will be accepted. Hordes of volunteers work throughout November and December and place at least four gifts in a sack along with a Christmas card. Agencies like Social Services, charities and their own staff refer families in need and their name, age and gender is logged. BCM say it is a joy to relieve some of these families of the financial strain of Christmas and do their best to ensure every child in Birmingham receives a present.



This is the sixth year running that the students, parents and staff at Woodrush have contributed by generously donating gifts. Last year's collection was a grand total of 85 boxes so let's see if we can beat that this year! BCM have always remarked on how wonderful it is to put a smile on so many children's faces as in some cases Christmas is not always a time of joy. It has been fantastic that Woodrush always plays a part in supporting this wonderful charity.

It would be fantastic if you could encourage your students to bring in empty shoe boxes or to donate a small gift. Over the years we have given them the idea to go into Poundland, as it does not have to be an expensive item. Second hand items, which are in almost a brand new condition, will also be gratefully received. The box then can be covered in Christmas paper but it is not essential, making sure the lid is wrapped separately, as the mission will have to check the contents of each box. The deadline will be Monday 19th December so that the mission can collect them before we break up.

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

Mrs Peters

GCSE Geography Visits

Back in September all GCSE Geography students spent two days collecting information for the fieldwork element of their Geography Examinations.

The first day was spent on the Long Mynd Hills in Shropshire, collecting river data to see how the stream in Carding Mill Valley changed downstream. This involved measuring the widths and depths of the stream as well as the speed of flow. Whilst there we also focused on how we collected data and how we can mitigate risk in our fieldwork practice.

The second day was spent in Solihull Town Centre where students were looking to see what impact Touchwood has had on the rest of the shopping district. Students spent time looking at the location of different types of shop, asking shoppers their views and also looking and making judgements on the shopping environment.

All students now have the necessary information to work through that aspect of their examination. Hopefully we will see the successes of these trips later in the summer!





"Learning how to evaluate foods by taste testing was so cool" - Jake Yr7

Having made bread last lesson we then learnt how to adapt our bread. We had great fun changing and adding different ingredients to our basic bread recipe. We were so proud with the finished results. - 7A3

"I have learnt how to use the bridge and claw technique when chopping fruit and vegetables" Chloe Yr7

"My Mum and Dad loved my crumble so much I have made it every week for dinner" - Millie Yr7



"I most enjoyed making the cereal bar and changing the ingredients for what I liked" - Joe Yr 8

"The stir fry was so nice my Dad has asked me to make it again - Matt Yr8

I really enjoyed making stir fry and learning all of the different ways of cutting vegetables" - Isabelle Yr8

"We have done loads of practicals this year and I have loved them all" Ethan Yr 8

"Today in class we learnt all about gelatinisation (thickening a liquid using starch) and viscosity (the thickness of a liquid). We conducted experiments using different starches. It was so interesting seeing how the water changed and thickened. We then tested the viscosity by pouring the thickened liquid onto a viscosity chart and seeing how far the liquid spread. It really helped me to link the work we had done in class and the practical of making pasta bake." Emily, Poppy and Frankie Yr8



KS4 Pupil Feedback

Year 9
The year 9 pupils have made a fantastic start to their GCSE Food and nutrition lessons. They have shown fantastic enthusiasm and resilience. They have been working on developing their knife skills and fruit and vegetable preparation. Their knowledge has also been expanded as they learnt all about food safety and hygiene.

"The best practical so far has been making the vegetable pakora I was so proud"
"I really enjoyed learning all of the temperatures and safety stuff"
"It was gross but interesting learning about food safety"
"I have loved every practical, we have done so many"

Year 10
Year 10 have had a very positive and busy start to the year. They have fully embraced all of the new skills and knowledge that has been introduced to them in the first half term.

"The cheesecake and fruit fool has been the best practical this half term"
"I've liked the lessons where we have worked as a team"
"Making and then taste testing all of the different biscuits was fantastic. I didn't need lunch that day"

Year 11
Year 11 have entered the controlled assessment part of their GCSE work. They have completed their science experiments making lots of scones to see the different results.

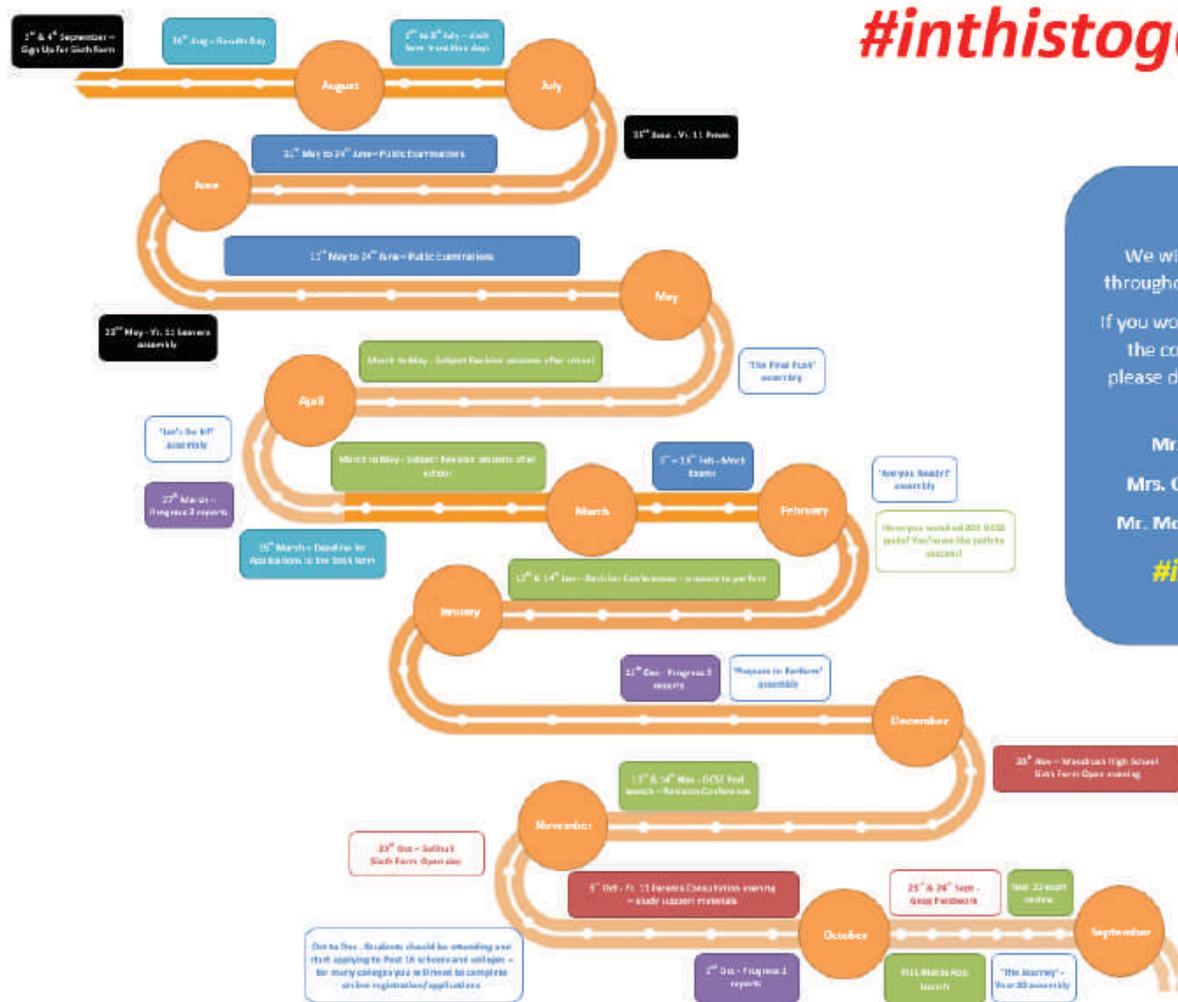
"I found it a bit difficult at the start but once I got into it I started to understand"
"I'm really looking forward to the second coursework"
"Planning my own dishes is my favourite part"

Year 11

Already getting ready for the big one!

OUR year 11 students are already getting ready for the summer examinations. All of our students are on that journey and we are emphasizing with them how important every lesson, homework and revision class is along the way. We have thus given all students our journey so we can all plan together the coming months so that we are all exam ready.

#inthistgether



Information

We will add further information throughout the year to this 'journey' If you would like further support over the coming weeks and months, please do not hesitate to contact us at school

Mr. Taylor – Head of Year
Mrs. Cassidy – Progress Leader
Mr. Monk – Deputy Headteacher

#inthistgether

GCSE Pod

Many students are already using GCSE Pod – our revision tool that is designed for all subjects and all specifications. Students have already watched nearly 2000 'pods' (3-4 minute revision clips). These pods can be accessed on a phone through the app or on desktop computers. We feel this is a fantastic way to get going with revision as the mock exams are only 4 school weeks away!!

If you want your child using this fantastic resource there login is there firstnamesurname (no spaces) and their password is their date of birth.



Celebrating GCSE Pod

11B1 have already won the first prize of the year – watching the most pods over the half term period – well done to them. We also have our individual winners, Cameron, Keira and Grace:



Total Streamed

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----|
| 1 | Cameron C | 119 |
| 2 | Keira F | 101 |
| 3 | Grace A | 91 |

Train to teach with Woodrush TSA

Places available in both Primary and Secondary subjects. Contact us now for personalised support throughout your application process.



We work with a range of Primary and Secondary schools from across the Midlands. You will have 2 placements based in schools from across this alliance.

Unlock their potential!



This is the start of their journey; Could it also be the beginning of yours?

Do you want to make a difference to a child's life? Do you want hands-on training in a school and to be part of an enthusiastic and supportive team? With school-led training you learn from experienced colleagues and put your new skills into practice from day one. Join us and make a difference!



Woodrush Teaching School Alliance



@WoodrushTSA



WoodrushTSA

What is a teaching school?

Woodrush High School became a Teaching School in September 2014 and is now classified as 'established'. Teaching schools are outstanding schools who work with partner schools (Primary and Secondary) to provide high quality training for new and experienced school staff. We are part of the Government's plan to give schools a central role in raising standards by developing a self-improving and suitable school-led system.

Woodrush TSA are currently recruiting applicants to train to teach.

To deliver our teacher training, we currently work in partnership with three different universities: Birmingham, Warwick and Worcester and over 20 schools across Birmingham and Worcester, in a variety of subjects, to offer a wide range of different options and pathways to suit trainees' needs.



Why train with us?

You have probably been overwhelmed with choices that are offered for training to teach. It is a very important decision to make and want to get it right. At Woodrush TSA our numbers of School Direct trainees have grown year on year but we still pride ourselves on providing a personalised service. We are very proud of our training figures.

In 2018/19:

- 100% of trainees finished as at least good, with 70% being outstanding.
- Satisfaction rates from evaluations for the training sessions were at 96%.
- 100% of trainees said they would recommend us to friends of family.

School Experience

School experience is beneficial if you're interested in becoming a teacher. Before you apply for your training you may want to gain school experience in the classroom to strengthen your application and prepare you for interviews.

School experience can be set up at Woodrush High School or a school within the alliance. We encourage applicants to come in and get complementary school experience to meet the teachers they will be working alongside but also to meet our current trainees to hear what it is like to train.



Maths and

Physics

Paid

Internships

Have you ever considered teaching Maths or Physics?

Are you in your penultimate year of your degree in Maths, Physics or Engineering?



Woodrush Teaching School Alliance



@WoodrushTSA



woodrushTSA

We are delighted to offer Mathematics and Physics undergraduates the opportunity to earn £1200 in June/July 2020 on the Department for Education Internship scheme to learn about teaching Maths and Physics at secondary school level.

Register your interest now!

Contact teachingschool@woodrush.org

or by calling 01564 823 777 ext 7104

STARTS June 2020!

Salary: £1200

Woodrush Teaching School Alliance

Contact: teachingschool@woodrush.org

Photography

On Wednesday 23rd October, Year 10 GCSE Photography students went to Birmingham City Centre, in order to take photographs for their current Architecture unit.

We completed a walking tour which took us from the Custard Factory in Digbeth, via St'Martin's, Selfridges, Grand Central Station, Victoria Square to the Library. We planned our photoshoots in school before the trip and focussed on composing and capturing photographs in the style of the two photographers we have studied, Ted Van Cleave and Stephanie Jung.

In order to do this, we used the rules of composition and considered both lighting and angles.

Thanks to the trip, we learned more about different types of architecture, completing actual photoshoots and have collated lots of images that we can now use and edit back in school for our coursework.

We also had a lot of fun!

Athena
Year 10



CREATIV



Dance

Tilly is a member of Hi-Bri's Dance Studio in Solihull where Commercial & Street dance is taught. Tilly trains 3 times a week and has competed several times through out the year at competitions such as 'That's Showbiz', 'SOAR Sandtreet dance Championships' and 'Born2perform'. Tilly's group have placed well at all competitions and came 3rd in the British Street Dance Championships. Tilly is supported by Woodrush PE teachers who support both in dancing and are always interested and enthusiastic about what we do.



Art in Action

Yr12 & 13 Art students attended a very informative 'Art in Action' day at Warwick Arts Centre in November to allow them to understand what options are open to them in the world of Art & Design.

On the day the students heard from leading artists and designers explaining how they explore and develop ideas and turn them in to works of art.

The students heard from David Montgomery a world renowned photographer who has photographed the likes of Andy Warhol, Rolling Stones, Jimmy Hendrix and The Queen!! He spoke to students about his career and gave tips to successful portraiture.

They also heard from Piers Atkinson a renowned Milliner who makes headpieces for Lady Gaga, Rhianna and Miley Cyrus to name but a few.

As well as giving an insight in to the personality of each of his creations, Piers also divulged the skills required to run a successful business. A very worthwhile experience that gave students ideas to develop further on their return to school.



Piers Atkinson



Ingrid Murphy



David Montgomery



David Walliams BILLIONAIRE BOY

Year 8 and 9 Theatre Rewards Trip 'Billionaire Boy' by David Walliams

On November 20th 2019, Students from Woodrush were lucky enough to attend a rewards trip to The Alexandra Theatre to see a production of David Walliams' 'Billionaire Boy'. Students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and some of them shared their highlights.

Gracie (Year 8) said: "They had good scenery and singing; they wore lots of different costumes and I like the way they got everyone to join in!"

Jack (Year 8) said: "The play was really good, nothing wrong with it. Great acting, great staging and effects and my favourite character was Raj."

Jayden (Year 8) said: "The trip itself was good and all the character in the play were an inspiration. The fact that they had to change their costumes all the time. It was an amazing experience and I would recommend it to everyone. It was also very funny! Thanks to the amazing teachers, this would not have happened without them!"

Olivia (Year 8): "It was really good! I liked all of the characters – the one I loved the best was Sapphire because she was really funny. I love musicals and the songs were good. It was clever how fast they got changed behind the scenes!"

Jacob (Year 8): "My favourite character was Raj because he was really funny. I like the moral of the play – money can't buy everything, even if you have more money than someone else it doesn't make you better than them!"



Lunch Time Chess Club



The chess club is proving ever popular run by Mr Smith (Reigning Woodrush champion) during lunch times on Thursday. Pupils enjoy the challenges provided by this board game. Alex in Year 8 commented "I like chess because it teaches us about tactics, strategy and we get to meet people". The club has proven so popular extra chess boards were purchased for players with many pupils turning up. Mr Griffiths is in the process of learning how to play "My children play chess, I want to learn so that I can enjoy the game too. I have been inspired by Mr Smith and the chess club to learn".

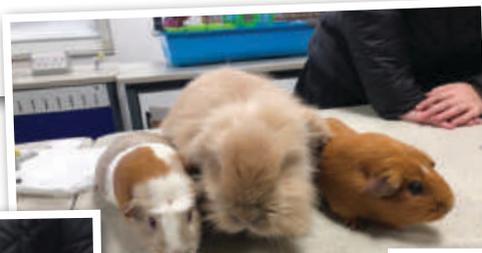


Woodrush Animal Club

New arrivals!

The Animal Club at Woodrush are happy to announce the arrival of 3 new rabbits; Petal the fluffy Lionhead Rabbit and a pair of Dwarf rabbits.

The rabbits (and a variety of other animals including goats and birds) are expertly and carefully looked after by pupils and Mrs Hill.



STAR Creative Writing

The Fish

The sun blazed down on the rotting bones. The dead fish lay on the moist sand - nothing left but an old skeleton. This is kind of like life: sometimes it's hard to persevere (in this case in any direction), but unlike this fish, we can help ourselves, get back up on our feet and move forward to our dream! But this fish couldn't do anything to help itself and just lay there wasting time, waiting for its inevitable death. As young people, we must try to be more resilient if we want to achieve our goals in school or in life: whatever is keeping you down, don't let it stop you from being yourself. We can do 10x more than this dilapidated corpse. Try to tell people how you are feeling rather than keep it all in a little ball ready to blow up. Don't end up like this fish; be more enthusiastic about your life and look on the brighter side and have your cup half full, not half empty. You can do much more than you think. Sometimes the impossible can BECOME the possible! Rather than think "this is too hard...I cant do this", think that there is there a way to overcome this problem. This fish just saw that it was stuck and thought "well, I'm boned" so like some people it just lay there waiting for the worst. Life is a privilege: make the most of it while you can and squeeze every tiny little drop you can out of life.

The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity.
The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.
WINSTON CHURCHILL

You Are Never Too Old To Set A New Goal Or Dream A New Dream...

Kyle A. Year 9

Teams



2019-20 U14 Football
Redditch District Cup Match v Arrow Vale High School Lost 5-2 AET



2019-20 U14 Football
Worcestershire County Cup Match v Droitwich High School 3-3 After Full Time 9-8 Loss on penalties!



2019-20 U18&21 Flag Football



2019-20 KS4 Badminton
Congratulations to the KS4 Boys Badminton Team Redditch District Champions!



2019-20 KS4 Badminton
KS4 Boys Badminton Team Redditch District Runners Up



2019-20 KS4 Badminton
KS4 Girls Badminton Team

2019-20 Rowing
Congratulations to Danny T. Following his successes at the Redditch District and Worcestershire School Games Danny has been invited to compete at the 2019 Mizuno British Rowing Indoor Championships (BRIC). Held at the Lee Valley VeloPark, London



2019-20 U13 Netball
Well done to the girls that represented Woodrush at the Redditch District Tournament!



2019-20 U13 Netball



2019-20 U14 Netball
Well done to the U14 Girls Netball Team winning 4 out of 5 Redditch District League Matches!



2019-20 U15 Netball
Well done to the girls that represented Woodrush at the Redditch District Tournament!

2019-20 Cross Country

Well done to the Woodrush students who were invited to compete at the Regional Schools Inter-Counties Competition 2019 Lilleshall National Sports Centre.

Dylan P
Megan C
Harvey P
Flynn P
Henry F



2019-20 Cross Country

Well done to the y8 boys and girls sports hall athletics teams.
Special mention to the boys who were silver medallists

Archery STAR - Grace W

At Grace's club, Redhill Archers, (Wythall Park) Grace was recently awarded Redill Junior Champion.

Grace has been in the sport for just 14 months, she was selected to shoot for the county of Worcester and made the team! There is an awards ceremony on 7th December.

Grace began the outdoor season with a 'third' classification and shot very well at many competitions including several 12 dozen round events. She gained her Junior Master Bowman classification by the end of one season, which is the highest classification she could receive!

Grace has been invited by Archery GB to join their talent development programme for juniors and following a profiling day last August by Archery GB coaches, we were recently informed that Grace's technique, attitude and commitment is what they're looking for. She's been selected to continue on their talent development programme and offered a place to train with Heart of England Junior Training Centre, run by British record holder, Philippa Lowe.

Grace moved up to 51 on the junior rankings, 19 in the under 14s heavily populated category improving her handicap by a massive 111 places from 2018.



Our Sports Stories and Successes

Rise to football STARdom

Ella

Ella's football journey began when she started football lessons at Cocks Moor Woods Leisure centre when she was 8 years old. From there she joined Wythall Juniors playing in defence alongside her twin brother Dylan. Wythall Juniors eventually merged with Solihull Moors where Ella continued playing in the boy's team and it wasn't long before a girls team was set up where she played upfront. She also enjoyed playing for her Primary school football team, both girls and boys, which took her to playing for the County on several occasions.



Player of the match with Solihull Moors

Ella's passion for football has continued to grow over the years and she is now in her 3rd season with West Bromwich Albion girls u14s for which she has been given the captaincy for the 2019/2020 season. Playing for West Bromwich Albion has given Ella the opportunity to play against some strong teams such as Chelsea, Man Utd, Wolves, Aston Villa and Birmingham. She has also been a ball girl for the West Bromwich men's team which she thoroughly enjoyed. It is Ella's dream to play for England one day and her dedication and commitment is so strong that with the right amount of support, development and encouragement, we're confident that she'll reach it!



Ella with her idol Fran Kirby



Contract signing u14s season 2019/2020



Ella playing against Wales regional u14 squad

Athletics STAR

Megan

I first got involved in athletics when I was in year 6 at Primary School, taking part in school competitions.

In 2017 I joined Redditch and Bromsgrove Athletics Club, training twice a week at Abbey Stadium, Redditch. Tuesdays are track training days where we do stamina and speed training. On Thursdays we do 'road training' where we do long distance, usually around 3 to 4 miles.

For the Teenage Cancer Trust I did an 8 mile sponsored run and take part in Park Runs when I can. I have competed in many competitions, track and cross county, including West Midlands Young Athletes League and Hereford and Worcester Schools' Athletics Association.



STAR Swimmer

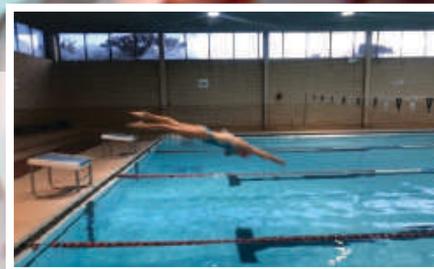
Tyler

I swim for Camp Hill Swimming Club, I have been swimming since the age of 10 years old as a competitor swimmer entering competitions.

My main stroke is Backstroke. I have competed in West Midlands County Championships in backstroke but have competed in Warwickshire County Championships for all strokes.

I have won numerous medals for different events I have entered, my latest achievement was 7 medals (1 gold, 4 silver & 2 bronze). My biggest achievement so far is gaining my 50 back Midlands time.

Swimming is a good form of exercise as it uses all muscles in your body and it's a good way to keep fit. I train twice a week before school and 5 times a week in the evenings. Most competitions take place over a weekend sometimes being all day Saturday and most of a Sunday, depending on which stroke you are aiming to get your Personal Best (time) in depends whether you attend all sessions or just a few.



STAR Netball

Neve

I play for Sparkhill netball club under 14's team at Camp Hill School. In my netball season I got player of the match 3 times in a row chosen by the oppositions team, I play Gk. My PE teachers are very enthusiastic in my netball and we're very helpful to help me to find a suitable club at the beginning of year 8. My netball season restarts in February, we train on a Monday night and matches are on a Sunday.



Emily

I play netball three times a week, twice at school and once at a netball club. I play for Sparkhill netball club and we train on a Monday and matches are on a Sunday. The netball season starts in February so we are only training at the moment. I enjoy netball because it's exciting. I play in the position of goal shooter so I am the main shooter for the team.

Olivia

Outside of school, I play for Sparkhill Netball Club. Netball season starts in February, when the matches are on Sunday mornings, but currently we train on Monday nights. We score highly in games against other clubs and we placed well in the final tournament. The PE teachers at Woodrush have helped me in finding a club and supported me to get better in my position of WD / GD during the netball practice at school and the opportunities that they gave us to compete with other teams.

Lilly

I play Netball 4 times a week, twice in school and twice outside of school. Outside of school I play for Foxes Netball club in the U14s B team. I train on a Tuesday night at Mosely school. I was chosen to play for my first friendly on Sunday 24th of November and we drew 11-11. My first competitive matches start in February.

Library

What is a student librarian?

A Student Librarian is someone who likes books and can commit twice a week to having a duty in the library at break or lunchtime. We help the librarian, doing jobs and maybe even scanning a few books out. We keep the library and the books tidy and come up after a class to make sure that all the books are in the right place. We also organise events for the school, the students or sometimes the public. We can help people pick books when they are struggling to find one they will enjoy and create displays of books that may appeal to different people.

In addition to our regular duties, we do some exiting things in the wider community with public library. This term we were given the amazing opportunity to read to the reception pupils from the local primary school, the Coppice. The three of us were proud to take part in this, Abi and Libby were acting out the story and Sophia was reading Super-pants! I loved the experience and would be absolutely over-joyed if I got an offer like that again. I would definitely recommend this to a friend who likes acting and little kids.

We are also expected to take part in library training. For National Non-Fiction November ten of us visited Alvechurch library and worked with students from the middle school. We learned about Dewey Decimal Classification and how to shelve non-fiction books with the numbers. We practised using the index so that we could easily find a non-fiction book about any subject for someone. It was interesting to visit a different library and nice to get to know students from another school.

Article by Abi, Libby and Sophia – year 7



We asked the student librarians why they volunteer. Here are a few quotes from the librarians themselves:

"I loves reading and I have a lot of free lunch time to go down to the library and help out."

"There are quite a few perks to being a librarian."

"You don't have to be a quick reader, just enjoy it."

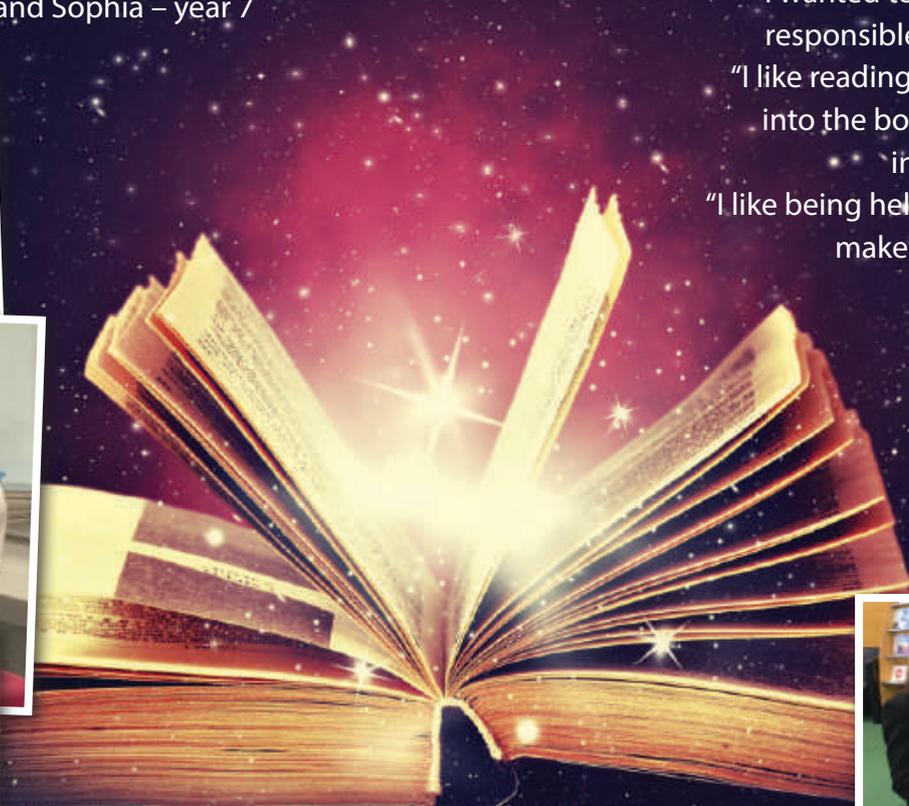
"I want to inspire the younger citizens to take part in reading."

"I went through with being a student librarian so that I could make new friends."

"I wanted to experience being responsible by having a job."

"I like reading and getting sucked into the book by being really involved."

"I like being helpful and doing jobs, it makes me happy."



3RD OCTOBER 2019

NATIONAL POETRY DAY

25th
Anniversary

NATIONAL POETRY DAY COMPETITION

On National Poetry Day 2019, children from Coppice, Meadow Green and Woodrush entered a competition and were challenged to write a poem about "3 Lies and a Truth".

The poems covered topics from romance to comedy.

My poem was about the Ocean. I wanted to give my reader a different point of view on the subject and an insight into what I thought about it. When I was announced as a finalist, I was in pure joy and so were my parents when I told them. I enjoyed working with the Coppice and Meadow Green students, they were all extremely friendly. We took part in different activities such as a drama workshop which increased our confidence in performing our poems. We performed our poems aloud to a group of year 10 students and four English Ambassadors who were the judges. Of course some students took a little bit of convincing but soon enough each child had read their poem. Once the reading was finished, the ambassadors left to discuss the poems and the poets' performances. While we were waiting for the winners to be announced, we were treated to a performance of Michael Rosen's Chocolate Cake by a year 10 boy. It was hilarious and entertaining, everybody was laughing.

After that, the winners were announced. Our three winners were Izzy from Meadow Green, William from Woodrush and Abbie from the Coppice. The rewards were a box of chocolates which each enjoyed happily.

Nicola, year 7



National Poetry Day Winners



Love by William
Three lies and one truth about ME!

I am 160cm tall,
I am greater than you all,
I don't know what to do,
But all I know is I love you.
Some of those were lies
That were in disguise.
But the one that was real
Is a big deal.
If you are reading this take notes,
Humans made boats.
I'm not super smart
But you are in my heart.
I love you to the moon and back.
You don't live in a shack.
You are as precious as a pearl.
Will you be my girl?

3 Lies and 1 Truth
!Earth! by Izzy

When I swim the deep blue sea
millions of microscopic creatures
falling on top of me.

Down in the deep dark forest
my fears got tangled up together like
a big bulky tree.

Danger. Danger. Where could you be?
Lots of people are scared of me.
Danger. Danger. I don't fight.
If it helps I'll be a muscular knight.

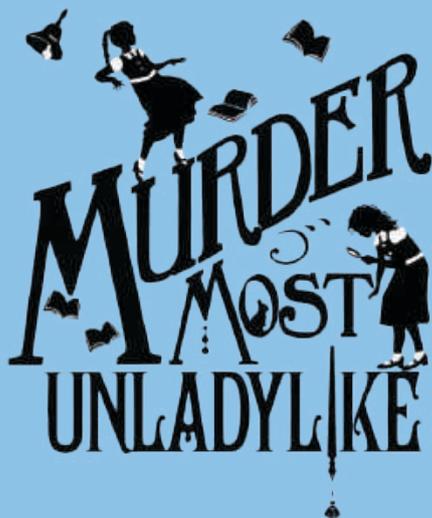
The lovely smell of fresh air.
Birds tweeting.
Suns shining.
Shades are on and off on holiday!

Three lies and one truth about
teachers... by Abbie

Did you know teachers live at
school and party all night?
They are never wrong and always
right
They are all robots controlled by a
machine.
Did you know teachers are fuelled
by caffeine?

Library

Robin Stevens author of the Murder Most Unladylike series of books



In October a group of year 7 students went to Worcester Cathedral to meet the author Robin Stevens. When we first arrived Robin gave a talk to an audience of students from many different schools. She explained that she decided to write murder mystery stories because she had enjoyed the genre as a child. She grew up in Pembroke College where her father worked for the University of Oxford. With no other children living in the college, she spent a lot of time spying on adults and reading books. She enjoyed mystery stories because she liked having a puzzle to solve, it was an active way of reading. When she was a bit older and started reading books by Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle she realised that the solution to the crime could be harder to predict than in the books for younger readers. This motivated her to create more complex plots for her books. As a teenager Robin was educated at a boarding school which became her inspiration for Deepdean school for Girls, the setting of the Murder Most Unladylike books starring Daisy and Hazel. Following the talk, we had the opportunity to ask questions and meet Robin and have our books signed by her. We enjoyed meeting an author and finding out how she wrote her books.



Ruby

As most of you know we welcomed Ruby to Woodrush back in May 2019 and she has been an amazing addition to our community. Ruby has recently turned one so is just coming out of the puppy stage but still loves to play with the students. Ruby has helped so many of the children here since May and here are a few examples of how:

- Improved reading skills and increased confidence and literacy interest by visiting groups of students in the library.
- Reduced anxiety levels and helped children to decompress after a distressing event.
- Ruby has encouraged students to be more social during break and lunch times through their interaction with her – they actually talk to each other and make new friends.
- Students who find coming into school first thing in the morning difficult are met at the school gate or, their parent's car, and encouraged to walk in with Ruby which really reduces the student's fears.

Here are a few comments from our students:

'Ruby is very helpful and loving' – Harriett year 9

'She smells of roses and always looks so happy. I'm glad she is here; she brightens my day' – Leah year 11

'She always looks happy and that makes me happy. Also she wants cuddles and attention which I love' – Nicole year 9

'Ruby always puts a smile on my face' – Jake year 11

'Ruby is the best dog for you if you are stressed or angry. She makes me feel relaxed' – Tia year 9

I am sure you will all agree that Ruby has been a positive contribution to our school and hopefully will continue to do so for many more years to come.

Mrs Peters



Woodrush High School Book Club

Meeting in Woodrush Library at 3:15pm for snacks and chat, followed by Book Club 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Tuesday 28th January
Murder Mystery

Thursday 6th February
Harry Potter night

Tuesday 24th March
Around the World in a day



Sir Peter Wright's The Nutcracker

On Thursday 5th December KS4 Dance students went to visit The Birmingham Hippodrome to see The Nutcracker. It was a wonderful experience to see Birmingham Royal Ballet on stage. The set, costume and choreography were all incredible and it felt very festive. The students really enjoyed their afternoon at the theatre.

Woodrush Christmas Concert

On Thursday 12th December, several students took part in the Christmas Concert. We had such a variety of music, dance and drama and the students had worked so hard over the past few months to create some beautiful pieces. Great fun was had by all and the Creative Arts team are so proud of each and every student involved. A massive thanks to everyone involved for the continuous support each year.

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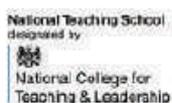
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We often use pictures, names and videos of students for publicity purposes in our newsletter 'The Woodrush Branch', and our magazine the Woodrush Star as we like to acknowledge and celebrate our students' achievements, resulting in photos and names 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



Free Wi-Fi



Café

Eat In Take Out Relax

Opening Times:

Monday – Thursday 8:00am - 6:30pm
Friday 8:00am - 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am - 4:00pm

Offers

. Breakfast . Brunch . Meal Deals.
see Website for more details

BUY
any Large Hot
Drink and get
a **FREE** Mince
Pie or Cake



Children

Babyccinos

**Christmas Biscuit
Decorate**

Soft Play

**Christmas Lunch
Box**



Woodrush Community Hub

Gym | Café | Conferencing | Youth

Woodrush Community Hub, Sport & Leisure Centre is the perfect place to meet up, have fun, and spend time with family.



Have your Christmas Cake and Eat It!

RUSH ACTIVE GYM CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Monday 23rd Dec - 9:30am-6:30pm
Tuesday 24th Dec - 8:30am-3:30pm
Wednesday 25th Dec - Closed
Thursday 26th Dec - Closed
Friday 27th Dec - 9:30am-6:30pm
Saturday 28th Dec - 8:30am-3:30pm
Sunday 29th Dec - 9:00am-3:00pm
Monday 30th Dec - 9:30am-6:30pm
Tuesday 31st Dec - 8:30am-3:30pm
Wednesday 1st Jan – Closed



SIGN UP
for 12 days
between 1st -
12th December for
ONLY £15.00

New space. New gym. New you.

To book a tour, sign up for a membership or to find out about class timetables
Telephone: 01564 820099 or go to www.woodrushcommunityhub.co.uk