

Newsletter - April 2020

"The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD;
he is their stronghold in time of trouble."

Psalm 37:39

Message from Ms Phillips

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. A number of you are key workers, so I hope that you managed to have some time over Easter, where possible, with your family. Since the enforced closure, I have ensured regular updates, informing you of what is happening here at school. We continue to appreciate contact with you regarding online work, and I would stress that teaching staff are accessible via email, or telephone school between 8.00 am and 3.20 pm daily.

We continue to have a regular group of children attending daily and I am thankful to the staff members working with them to provide a varied menu of activities and lessons throughout each week.

We are extremely proud of the contribution that we are able to make towards providing personal protective equipment (PPE) for NHS staff, care homes district nurses and pharmacies. To date our team, led by Mr Cartledge, have provided over 2,000 visors. **If you are aware of anyone in need, please contact Mr Cartledge by email:**

cartledgejst@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

"I would just like to express a heartfelt thank you from myself and my team, for the amazing face visors that we received today. They are such high quality and very well made, and they fit each of us, despite us all having different shaped heads!! Please accept our grateful thanks, we can confidently wear them whilst we visit our patients. "

"Please can my sincere thanks be passed on to whoever made and donated the face visors please; I am a social worker in Arrowe Park hospital, my role is to meet with patients on the wards and ensure they have safe and timely discharge from the hospital. This face visor will make me feel that bit more safe and lessen anxiety all around. Sincere Gratitude to you all xx "



Ofsted Inspection

As you will already be aware, Woodchurch High School had an Ofsted inspection in February 2020, under the new rigorous framework.

Throughout the two days, inspectors visited a number of lessons, examined pupils' exercise books and, importantly, spent time talking to our pupils about the school and their learning experience. I trust that you have all taken the opportunity to read the report, which I believe not only reflects the quality of education that our pupils receive, but the significant role that the school plays in pupils' social, emotional and spiritual development.

I wish to thank your staff, pupils and Governors for their ongoing hard work and commitment to Woodchurch High School. A letter of support from the Diocesan Director of Education is detailed below.

Finally, we continue to pray for those across our school family who are affected both directly and indirectly by the virus.

Ms R Phillips

Dear Rebekah,

I am writing following receipt of your OFSTED report and the Section 8 inspection of Woodchurch CE High on the 11th & 12th February. I wanted to pass on my personal congratulations to you, your leadership team and your staff on a very positive report that recognises the continued hard work of the staff and governors in ensuring that the good quality of education for the pupils at Woodchurch CE High School has been both maintained and improved since the last inspection. The report is a reflection of your significant and substantial leadership of the school, alongside that of your colleagues in ensuring the school's strong standing in both the community and the Diocese.

The report recognises the work of the school's leaders in developing a curriculum that puts pupils' best interests at the heart. This was particularly notable in the re-design of the key stage 3 curriculum. The process has had a positive effect on staff development, with the report highlighting the strong subject knowledge of teachers and their passion for teaching. At Woodchurch, leaders promote an equality of opportunity, providing a range of academic and vocational courses at key stage 4. The curriculum is described as being 'suitably ambitious.' The school's focus on 'equality for all' is recognised and appreciated by pupils.

The report is extremely positive in relation to the pastoral support pupils receive, describing Woodchurch as a caring school which prioritises pupils' mental and emotional well-being. The school environment is calm and welcoming, and pupils behave well showing respect to one another. The local authority's description of the school as a 'beacon of practice' reflects the external and wider view of Woodchurch's strong ethos and excellent practice that is equally recognised by staff and parents. This is perfectly summed up by the staff who state that 'they are proud to work in such a caring environment.'

Please pass on my congratulations to the pupils, staff team, governing body, your incumbent and parents. The report recognises the hard work and contribution that each makes in sustaining the many strengths and special qualities of the school. May I wish you and your team continued success, and I look forward to my next visit to Woodchurch when schools 'return to normal practice' after the Coronavirus situation. I will also be writing to the Chair of Governors to offer my congratulations.

Every blessing,

Chris Penn Director of Education

News Roundup

We are always pleased to hear news of our former pupils, and we were particularly delighted to hear recently about the success of Charlie Wildman, who left Woodchurch in July 2019.

Charlie has embarked on his chosen career in the British Army with the Royal Engineers. Gaining the necessary entry qualifications at GCSE level, Charlie 'passed out' in February and currently he is completing his phase 2 Battle Engineer training in Camberley, Surrey before he goes on to his 'trade'.

We are really proud of Charlie and he is an example of what our pupils can achieve when home and school work closely together. We look forward to updates on Charlie's career.



Staff Leavers

At the end of the Spring Term, three of our staff left Woodchurch High School, although we have had to delay our formal farewells until a later date.

Mr Warren has taught at Woodchurch High School since 2001. Mr Warren has a long illness and has therefore made a decision to retire at the end of the Spring Term. He was a valued member of the Science Department and, with Mr Woods, gave pupils much pleasure in organising and performing in the staff show every Christmas.



Mr Clarke has been at Woodchurch for 14 years as ICT Manager. We wish him well and trust that he has a long and happy retirement.



Mr Woods has worked in the ICT Department for ten years, delivering ICT and Computer Science. Mr Woods has many talents, and we will certainly miss his outstanding musical contribution in the Staff Show. Mr Woods also played a key role in the development of the Woodchurch Community ICT Project. Through his tuition, a significant number of Woodchurch elderly resident have good ICT skills, enabling them to communicate with family all over the world. Mr Woods is embarking on a new venture, but I know that he will maintain strong links with school and with the Woodchurch High School community.



Careers

On Monday 2nd March a group of Year 11 pupils boarded the HMS Prince of Wales in Liverpool, as part of our Careers and Enterprise programme. Pupils were able to explore the aircraft carrier, and given the opportunity to sit in helicopters such as the Chinook and the Merlin. Pupils also had the opportunity to discuss and ask questions about the many engineering roles available to them both in the military and locally. They were able to witness first hand how members of the military demonstrate service to our country, a Christian Value we hold dear. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the unique experience and we trust that it will support them in making choices for their future pathways.





CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Despite these challenging times, much provision and support is still in place to assist pupils in developing their Careers Plans for the future. Specific things children should be working on at present:

All Year Groups:

- Pupils should continue to make use of the online career planning and mapping toolkit – Kudos. The initial code to gain 'entry' to the system is timecook24. This programme gives specific information about careers, and qualifications, as well as provides a number of profile / career matching exercises, based upon pupil likes/dislikes. Once an account has been set up, pupils can save their progress and visit the site as often as they choose in order to build up their profile and bank of resources
- Work through the careers pages of the school website – access code: woodchurchhigh and password: careers. Again, there is much information in this section of the website that pupils will find useful, especially that pertaining to local labour market information
- Careers Guidance Interviews continue to be available to pupils (although understandably we do wish to concentrate on Year 11 at the moment), and if they want the Careers Advisor to make contact with them at home via telephone, they need to contact Rev Bannon or Miss Quigley at school (preferably via email), giving their name, year group and contact telephone number

Year 9:

- Next year will see Year 9 going out on their Work Experience placements, although these placements will not be until the Spring Term. Nevertheless, pupils should be giving some thought now to the type of placement they wish to undertake, as well as possible geographic locations. It would be immensely helpful – in order to give the school a head-start with this – if Year 9 pupils and parents could print off the consent form for Work Experience, fill in the 'health' section, as well as sign the consent to the placement(s) going ahead. These forms will be sent out initially via the Year 9 Newsletter / Bulletin, issued by Mr Hesketh



CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Year 10:

- Although the programme to support pupils with their post-16 progression begun prior to the enforce closure, they are things Year 10 could now be focussing upon:
 - ◊ Create a Kudos account if they currently do not have one, and work through the online toolkit
 - ◊ Look at the Careers section of the website, especially those parts pertaining to applications, apprenticeships, and job-related information
 - ◊ Request a careers guidance interview, if at this stage, they feel it would be of benefit
 - ◊ Visit the websites of the main post-16 destination choices pupils have made in the past from school and look at what their provision is for children post-16: suggested websites to look at (these include the full range of options, from academic, to vocational, to apprenticeships) –
 - British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force
 - Cheshire College: South and West
 - Coleg Cambria
 - Liverpool City College
 - Reaseheath College
 - TTE
 - Weatherhead High School Sixth Form
 - Wirral Metropolitan College
- Some colleges (e.g., Cheshire College) are putting on 'virtual open events', as site visits are not possible at this time – pupils could log on and take part in these visits
- When school resumes, the full programme, with restrictions permitting, will be fully implemented and a range of visits planned to post-16 providers, as well as talks / presentations by providers

Any queries, comments or concerns regarding the above or provision within careers at school more generally, please do not hesitate to contact Rev Bannon or Miss Quigley on (0151) 677 5257, or via email. They would only be too pleased to be of assistance.

Rev L Bannon – Senior Leader: Careers; bannonlst@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

Miss L Quigley – Careers Co-ordinator; quigleylst@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk



CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Year 11:

- Applications should and can still be made for many post-16 providers, as deadlines have understandably been extended – pupils should aim to apply for at least three possible destination routes, rather than ‘put all their eggs in one basket’. If further applications are to be made, a good place to start looking is the websites of the main post-16 destination choices pupils have made in the past from school and look at what their provision is post-16: suggested websites to look at (these include the full range of options, from academic, to vocational, to apprenticeships) –
 British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force
 Cheshire College: South and West
 Coleg Cambria
 Liverpool City College
 Reaseheath College
 TTE
 Weatherhead High School Sixth Form
 Wirral Metropolitan College
- If pupils haven’t already done so, they should create a Kudos and work through the online toolkit
- Pupils should also make use of the resources that have been published on the Careers Section of the school website, there is also information about CV writing in this section
- The Careers Advisor has been ringing every pupil in Year 11 to ascertain what support, if any, is still required. If contact has yet to be made, or pupils want further telephone support, they should get in touch with either Rev Bannon and/or Miss Quigley. The Careers Advisor, Mrs Tomlinson, can also be contacted directly on Joanne.Tomlinson@mploysolutions.co.uk
- A number of colleges (e.g., Cheshire College) are putting on ‘virtual open events’, as site visits are not possible at this time – pupils could log on and take part in these visits
- If references are required for any post-16 courses, generally the provider contacts school directly and they are sent directly to them. However, if pupils require a reference, they should contact Rev Bannon or Miss Quigley at school, who will ensure they are posted to the relevant post-16 destination route

Any queries, comments or concerns regarding the above or provision within careers at school more generally, please do not hesitate to contact Rev Bannon or Miss Quigley on (0151) 677 5257, or via email. They would only be too pleased to be of assistance.

Rev L Bannon – Senior Leader: Careers; bannonl1st@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

Miss L Quigley – Careers Co-ordinator; quigleyl1st@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

Year 8 News

Trip to Liverpool John Moores University

On Thursday 5th March, Mr Stead took 55 Year 8 pupils to John Moores University to experience a day in the life of a University student. Pupils picked their own interest areas, such as Engineering, Criminal Law, Midwifery and Computer Science. Supported by Mr Joplin and Mr Parker, school mini buses were used to transport the pupils over to Liverpool to be met by 6 University ambassadors by the JMU business school.



Pupils experienced the lectures, campus tours and specially designed seminars to encourage pupils to pursue their academic dreams. The feedback from every pupil was outstanding as was the behaviour and attitude of everybody involved. Many of the pupils talked about going to University on the way back to school. Well done to all that attended and we hope to be giving more pupils at Woodchurch High School a similar experience in the future.



Breakthrough Programme

In November 2019, Mr Stead selected 25 boys to be part of the 'breakthrough' programme. The programme is very aspirational and it encouraged the pupils involved to be the best they can be in school and let their light shine, making the most of the gifts they have been given. We have seen a number of the boys involved in the programme 'grow' academically, socially and emotionally. Points were awarded based on being 'active participants' within the classroom, such as showing excellent effort, asking for help when required, completing learning homework's to a good standard and demonstrating excellent BFL.

It was a very close competition and by the end of the programme, we had 24 boys competing for the reward spots. The blue team ended the programme in top spot and scored a quite incredible 5,882 points between the 5 of them with the runners up being the red team on 4,765 points.

Mrs Wilton (Mentor for the Blue team) was very proud of her team's efforts throughout the duration of the programme, much to the disappointment of Mr Parker (Mentor for the Red team). However, every participant should be very proud of their efforts and a special congratulations to the pupils who finished top of their own group and therefore qualified for the reward trip to 'Apex Karting' along with the Blue team.



Work Experience

This year was perhaps once again, one of the most successful Work Experience schemes we have run to date.

As is the case every single year, there was much excellent feedback from employers about our pupils. Quite simply, there were so many good and positive things said, that to record them all would more than double the size of this report! It is true to say that by far our best ambassadors are our pupils. In summary, some of the feedback we received included:



"Ella was a pleasure to have in the salon, she was polite, very good with the dogs and completed any task that was asked of her."

"He demonstrated a genuine interest in his work and asked questions related to the task in hand. He was polite at all times will all members of staff."

"She has really impressed me this week, if hairdressing is something she is interested in the future then I would be more than happy considering her for an apprenticeship."

"Never met a Work Experience student like Megan – excellent and has really shines on the experience. We would welcome her back in an instant."

"She has shown a great ability to work with both staff and children. She has been a great asset in our classroom this week. She has been a credit to her school."

"He has worked with multiple tradesman throughout the week. He is a hard working young man and we wish him all the best."



As is now customary, a number of pupils have also been offered either holiday or part-time employment as a result of their excellent progress. As ever, the many successes (including all of the above) only underlie the importance of Work Experience, in terms of developing within the pupils' skills for employability, as well as giving them the opportunity of learning about work, through work.

The references secured from Work Experience also feed in to pupil's post-16 reference for the chosen destination routes after leaving the school in Year 11.

The profile of the school as a whole has also benefited from the exemplary behaviour of our pupils, further developing and strengthening our links with the local community.

Well done Year 10 – we are very proud of you!

Pathfinders

Pathfinder February 2020

Woodchurch High School was fortunate to be involved in our fourth Pathfinder Project in three years. The previous three had been a great success amongst our pupils and this year proved no exception. The Course ran from Monday 24th February 2020 for five days

The Pathfinder Course is, as its name, helping our children choose the correct path in life for themselves. The course very much dovetails into our school of ethos of 'choices can lead to consequences' both to the negative and the positive. The course entailed working with the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, the Cells Prison Project, Delamere Forest Adventure Biking and the Armed Forces and the course is run and funded with the generosity of both Merseyside Police and Wirral Council.

The course was about social awareness, the dangers of risk taking and or criminal behaviour and building resilience and the positives of this. On the Monday the children enjoyed a full day with the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service where they were given interactive lectures on scrambler bikes, road safety and risk taking behaviour whilst travelling in vehicles. The learning material provided by the Fire Service was excellent with very relevant and accurate videos showing the impact of poor vehicle and passenger safety.

The group then attended the new Fire Station at Saughall Massie and were given a full hands on tour of the facility and a Fire Engine and all of its capabilities were displayed. Our children engaged well with the duty Fire Fighters with numerous relevant questions, a great day.

The Cells project on the Tuesday was again informative and real life and the pupils were briefed on the negatives of gang life and criminal association and the potential consequences of such a lifestyle. I was proud of our children as to how they listened, asked questions and showed respect. The Cells Project Team commented on our children as follows, *'The students at this school were receptive from the offset and keen to engage with the team by listening well and asking relevant questions throughout the day.'*

On Wednesday the children enjoyed a full day's adventure Mountain Biking over some challenging and at times difficult terrain. The children showed great resilience in negotiating the conditions, responding well to the instructions given and helping each other along the way. As a Pastoral Leader in the school it gave me great pleasure to see all of our children fully engaging in this day, all participated 100% both with the activity and with the Mountain Bike Team and the Police. Despite numerous requests, I was not getting on a bike.

Thursday was spent with the Armed Forces at the Birkenhead Park Community Centre. Our children individually introduced themselves to the group as an 'ice breaker'. Our children were then put through their paces in team building and problem solving exercises. Not getting it right resulted in numerous physical exercises and shuttle runs and our children relished this activity and worked together as cohesive teams. A number of our children were fortunate enough to have participated in the previous Pathfinders Course and the Army Recruiting remembered them positively.

The day concluded with a 90 minute careers talk covering the vast amount of careers that the Armed Forces can offer. The children listened diligently throughout and asked many pertinent questions. It was a pleasure to then receive a report from the Community Centre Manager complimenting Woodchurch High School on their excellent behaviour whilst at the facility.

Our last day, Friday, concluded with a morning Gym induction at the Birkenhead Tennis Centre and team games in the morning including a Boxing session, cardio session and football. Each pupil received a weeks free membership to all Wirral Gyms.

Friday afternoon was a celebration at the Gautby Road Community Centre where a presentation of a Course Pathfinders Certificate was made to each pupil. This event was attended by the Mayor of Wirral, speeches were given by Courtney Fry, a champion Commonwealth Boxer and from Sgt Murphy, the course organiser from the Merseyside Police. I was proud to hear Woodchurch High School being, yet again, referred to as such a well behaved school in front of so many dignitaries.

It is a pleasure to conclude again that our children were a credit to us and they fully engaged in the course from the outset. This week is one of my personal highlights as a member of staff at Woodchurch High School and I sincerely thank all of those agencies who make this week such a pleasure for our children.

Ian Emmitt
Year 11 Assistant Pupil Progress Leader

Ms Phillips was delighted to receive this email from the Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Tony Smith, following the awards ceremony:

Dear Rebekah,

Last Friday the Mayoress and I attended the Pathfinders Awards at Gautby Road in Birkenhead for the children from Woodchurch High who attended the Pathfinders course. The feedback from the Police officers and the Local Authority staff was amazing. They praised the children for their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and total involvement in all activities during the week. They also spoke about the participation of the staff which they also said was brilliant and made the whole week hugely worthwhile.

Regards
Tony

Tony Smith
Councillor for Arrowe Park ,Overchurch ,Upton and Woodchurch



English

Royal Shakespeare Company Broadcast

We were privileged to have been able to access the Royal Shakespeare Company's (RSC) Broadcast of *Macbeth* at the beginning of March. Year 11 were off timetable for the morning and gathered on the English corridor to view a live performance of their GCSE play. It was a fantastic morning and a lovely way to unknowingly end Year 11's time at Woodchurch.

Pupils were able to see the play devised by the experts – the RSC – in a way that had never been considered before. The drama of the ticking clock behind the Macbeths as their murderous plot unravelled added to the tension of an already gripping play. By now, most pupils know the play word for word, but *Macbeth* remains an exciting and turbulent experience, however many times you've seen it.



Thank you for your excellent contribution on this day, Year 11, and your immense hard work over your final year. We wish you all the best for your future beyond Woodchurch.



English

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2020

The best day of the year has been once more! On Thursday 5th March, we celebrated World Book Day. Everyone stopped and took the time to think about their favourite reads, either from school or private reading and discussed what they enjoyed so much about them. We all walked away with some brilliant recommendations!

Don't forget that during the enforced lockdown, **Audible** are offering free audiobooks for school pupils on the following address: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>

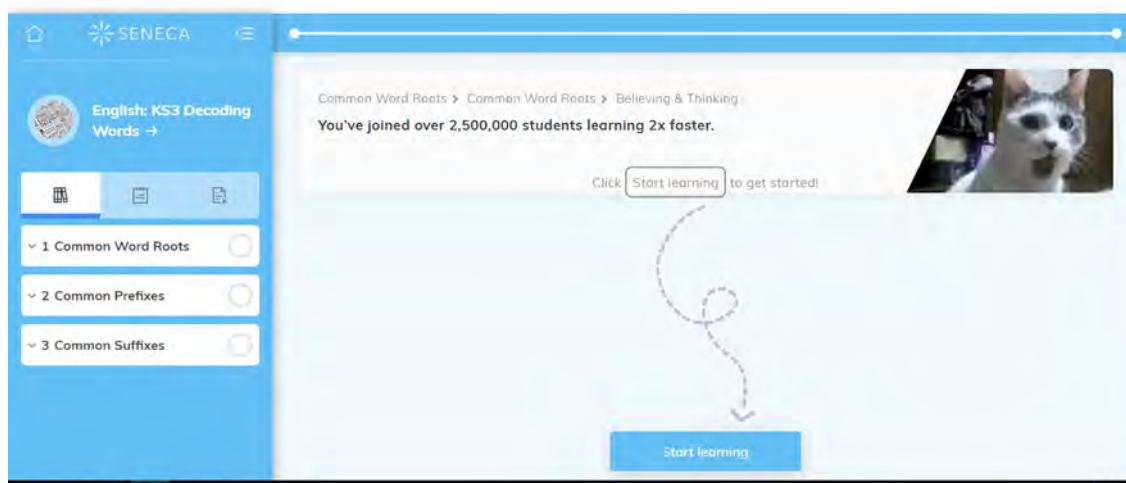
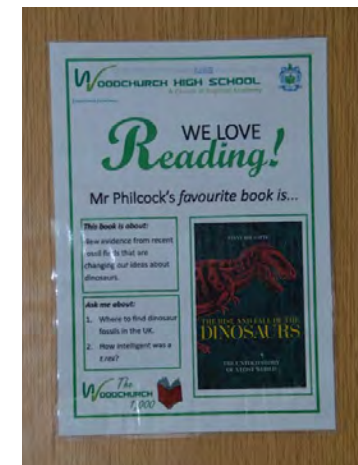
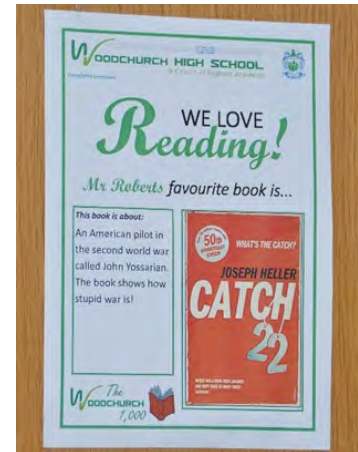
Home Learning, Revision and Extra-Curricular in English

All in-school English revision sessions have been cancelled due to the forced closure of the school following the Covid-19 outbreak. However, your teachers are available via email and the following resources have been provided to help you:

KS3:

Seneca Learning (www.senecalearning.com)

1. Select your age group on the left-hand side (KS3)
2. Select your subject (English)
3. Choose from the following courses:
 - Decoding Words
 - Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
 - Of Mice and Men (Year 9 only)
4. The chapters for each of these course are indicated on the left:



If you have any issues, please contact Miss Griffiths, Curriculum Area Leader, by email on griffithskgr@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

English

Other resources to support independent study during the lockdown:

- **Audible** are offering free audiobooks for school pupils on the following address: <https://stories.audible.com/start-listen>
- **SirLinkalot**, the award-winning spelling and grammar app, is free to use during the pandemic: <https://www.sirlinkalot.org/>
- **The RSC** have resources to support home learning: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/education/about-rsc-education/home-learning-with-the-rsc>
- **National Theatre** is offering YouTube streams of performances while they are closed at: <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>
- **BBC** are constantly updating their wealth of resources to support you at home, including daily lessons coming soon: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- **BookBub** is a resource which will email you links to cheap (and sometimes free!) e-books. All you need is an email address! <https://www.bookbub.com>
- **Please be aware that when using resources such as Mr Bruff's online learning resources, that our exam board is EDUQAS. You must make sure any resources you find independently are appropriate for the exam board school uses. If you are not sure, ask your class teacher via email!**

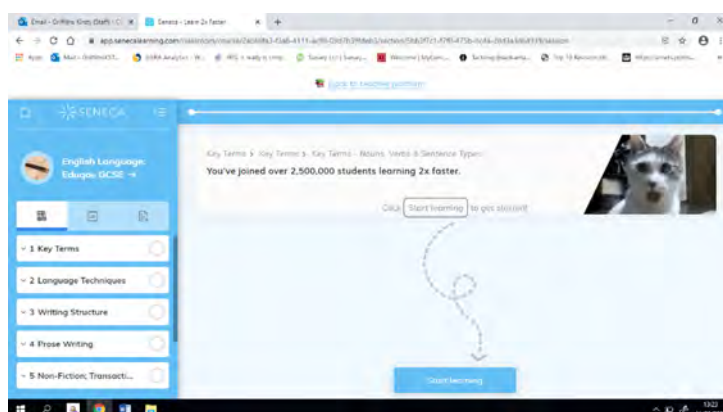
English

KS4:

Seneca Learning (www.senecalearning.com)

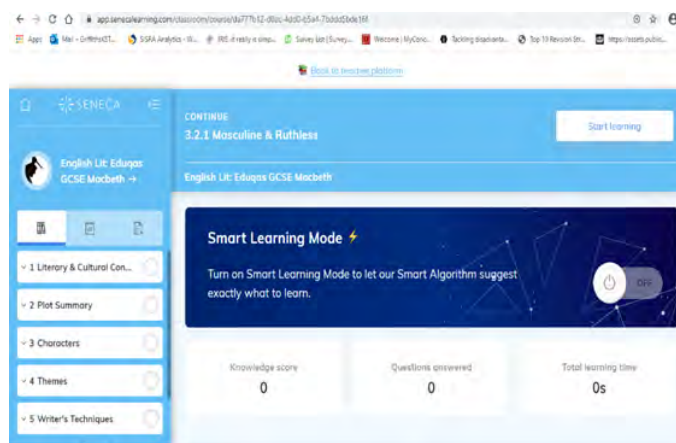
A How to Guide for Key Stage 4 English Language

1. Select your age group on the left-hand side (KS4)
2. Select your subject (English Language)
3. Select our exam board (Eduqas)
4. Choose the one course to revise (in white)
5. The chapters for this course are indicated on the left:
6. Work through this course, one chapter at a time. Read the information and then respond to the tasks. Your score will be tracked. If you answer incorrectly, you will receive feedback on why your answers were wrong.



A How to Guide for Key Stage 4 English Literature

1. Select your age group on the left-hand side (KS4)
2. Select your subject (English Literature)
3. Select our exam board (Eduqas)
4. Choose a relevant course (*An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol* or Anthology poetry)
5. The chapters for each of these courses are indicated on the left:
6. Work through these courses, one chapter at a time. Read the information and then respond to the tasks. Your score will be tracked. If you answer incorrectly, you will receive feedback on why your answers were wrong.



If you have any issues, please contact Miss Griffiths, Curriculum Area Leader, by email on griffithskst@woodchurch-high.wirral.sch.uk

Drama

Year 7

This half-term, Year 7 have changed from Music to commence Drama, as per the carousel system. It's been lovely getting to know pupils in different form groups and they have really got stuck in with everything during lessons. They have started to look at the world of Shakespeare, in particular, his theatre! Pupils have developed this knowledge, whilst experimenting with skills including physical theatre and soundscape when bringing to life their performances of *The Tempest*! We are really impressed with their effort, focus and commitment so far!



Well done, Year 7!

Year 9

Year 9 have been working incredibly hard this half-term following success in their mock exams. Pupils have started a mock for their Component 1 devising unit and have been working on the brief, War and Conflict! Pupils have come up with all sorts of exciting ideas, ranging from looking at homelessness, World War I and eating disorders. Their development of performance skills and explorative strategies in this short space of time has been excellent and we're looking forward to seeing how pupils will develop these skills further in the future.

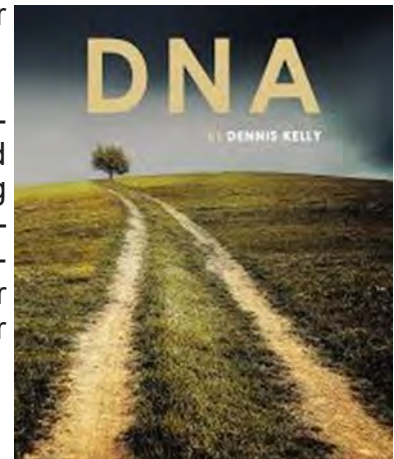


Year 10

Year 10 have continued to work tirelessly on their set text for this year, Dennis Kelly's *DNA*!

Pupils brought the text to life practically, helping them to further develop their understanding of plot, character and themes. They explore different roles within theatre, including the role of a director, designer and performer. Pupils considered how they would use costume, lighting, sound, set, staging and props to bring their own version of the show to life for their audience before evaluating a live version of the play for their theatre review.

Congratulations on your exam success, Year 10!



Year 11

Year 11 completed their Component 2 performance exam this half-term and it was so rewarding to see all of their hard-work paying off. Pupils performed a range of different plays, including Moises Kaufman's *The Laramie Project*, David Campton's *Cagebirds* and Shelagh Stephenson's *The Long Road*. Following this, we began our revision for Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* with pupils getting really stuck into annotating extracts and attempting mock exams.

Well Done, Year 11!



This academic year, pupils have been set a challenge to read 10 books independently. Already, many pupils are rising to this challenge and we are well on our way to smashing our whole school target of 1000 books!

- Reading is a guaranteed way to ensure success at GCSE and beyond. Children who read books often at age 10 and more than once a week at age 16 gain higher results in **Maths, vocabulary and spelling tests** at age 16 than those who read less regularly.
- In England and Northern Ireland the median hourly wage of workers with the highest levels of literacy is **94% higher** than for workers who have the lowest levels of literacy.
- Research shows that reading for pleasure can reduce the symptoms of depression, build empathy and help us build relationships with others.
- Reading enjoyment has been reported as more important for children's educational success than their socio-economic status (OECD, 2002).
- There is a **growing** body of evidence which illustrates the importance of reading for pleasure for both educational purposes as well as personal development (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006).

We have until the end of the academic year to reach our target of 1000 so keep reading! Remember to email your English teacher or your form tutor about getting yourself a book to read. There's no such thing as someone who doesn't like reading, only people who haven't found the right book yet!

Humanities



A reminder that Geography work is being updated and added to our VLE for all year groups. The Geography team are available for all pupils and parents via e-mail.

Fun Geography experiments to do at home

Make a model of an erupting volcano! – Please send pictures or video of your eruptions! <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-volcano.html>

Can you build an earthquake proof building? Build a structure out of blocks, Lego, card and then shake the base. What can you do to make the structure stronger?

Make a bug house using an old mug for a tin can. Just stuff them with, sticks, leaves, pine cones etc. and see what wildlife you get!



Year 7 have been looking at volcanoes and earthquakes, this has included a decision-making exercise when pupils had to respond to an eruption in real time by making team decisions to reduce the negative impacts.

Year 8 have looked at UK issues such as “do we have enough water?”, “how polluted is our air?” and “why do we need so much electricity?” This unit has encouraged debate around the UK’s resources and how they need to be managed sustainably. This also linked to a trip to Chester Zoo to look at how humans impact on ecosystems. Pupils can watch virtual tours and see the feeding of the animals by logging to the Chester Zoo Facebook page or by following this link <https://www.chesterzoo.org/>



Humanities



Year 9 have completed the unit on ecosystems looking at issues in rainforests and deserts, they would have been moving on to coasts. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006mvlc>. This link gives an excellent insight into why the coast is important and how it has shaped our country.

Year 10 have been looking at causes of the development gap and why some countries are poor, they have looked at a case study of India to see how a country can improve its development level.

What's going on in History? Living History



In these uncertain and unprecedented times, we are living through a key period in the history of the UK, and indeed, the world. Pupils in Key Stage 3 have / will study the pandemic which had such a huge impact on 14th century Europe – the Black Death, and Key Stage 4 pupils have / will study the Spanish Flu pandemic of the winter of 1918 – 1919. It is certain that in years to come, pupils will study the Coronavirus pandemic we are living through at present.

Congratulations!

In the recent **Year 7** Trial Exams, there were some exceptional performances. The following pupils all scored 75% or more on the exam – Harry Astbury, Joe Batchelor, Luis Clifton, Emma Crilly, Niall Daley, Aaran Graham-Comber, Oliver Harper, Ruby Irving, Kieron Jones, Carmella Kennedy, Callum McKevitt, Katie Morgan, Jessica Murphy, Daisy Myers, Gabriel Nabong, Paul Raine, Abigail Richmond, Daniel Robinson, Jack Taylor and Michelle Wildblood. Well done to all!

Online Learning

During the enforced school closure, a number of resources have been uploaded onto the VLE for pupils to access in order to continue their learning. The current lessons and resources are as below:

- Year 7 –** Medieval Health and Medicine
The Black Death
- Year 8 –** The Suffragettes
The Treaty of Versailles
- Year 9 –** Germany – the impact of World War One
Germany – recovery under the Weimar Republic
- Year 10 –** USA – economic downturn and recovery
USA – the impact of World War Two and Post-war Development
- Year 11 –** Resources covering all four GCSE units – Medicine, Elizabeth I, Germany and the USA. There is also a selection of past papers.

These resources will be updated each week with new lessons to complete. Online resources from BBC Bitesize and SENECA also include information to support many of the resources on the VLE.

Humanities



This half term has been a busy one in the Religious Studies Subject Area. Mrs Murphy was busy planning exciting and engaging visits for our pupils, which helped them to see some of the learning they have been doing in class in action. Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several of these visits had to be cancelled, however we will be ensuring that as soon as things are back to normal, we will get them re-arranged as we know how much they enhance the learning of our pupils. Thankfully, two of our visits did go ahead and were both thoroughly enjoyed by our pupils.

Year 7 Synagogue visit

At the end of February, our second visit to the Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool took place. All the boys wore Kippahs when entering the Synagogue which they all enjoyed. Pupils found out about the history of the Synagogue from a member of the Jewish community and were in awe of the grandness of the Synagogue, when going into the main worship area. Pupils were told about the main features and shown religious objects used to worship in the Synagogue. Pupils were given a chance to ask questions to members of the Jewish community which allowed them to develop their knowledge of Judaism. The member of the congregation noted how well-informed pupils were of the Jewish faith and how impeccable their behaviour was, they were a real credit to our school.

Year 8 PSHE and RS experience

Thirty year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to experience 'the cube' over two sessions, one on love and the other on injustice. This was an interactive experience set up by Wirral Youth for Christ, where pupils were given big questions and develop their own opinions and gain knowledge of those who hold a religious belief. Year 8 stepped into the cube and were immediately encapsulated in an interactive environment, tackling the big questions through means of video, lights, surround sound and creative exploration. Pupils really enjoyed this unique experience and certainly gained a lot from it.

This half term, Mrs Keegan continued to run her GCSE revision for pupils in Year 11 aiming to achieve a Grade 9. A special mention goes out to Jacob Ivers and Sam Morris, who attended every single week without fail, well done boys!

Year 10 and Year 7 have been busy studying for their trial exams and the RS teachers would like to congratulate the pupils below for their outstanding performances:

From Year 10:

Ashley Brown, Jessica Furlong, Maddox Rainbow, Ryan Wynne, Ben Hemsworth, Daniel Igoe, Christian Smith, Alaina Eastham, Joe Morrison, Teejay Hardman, Alfie Parry, Connor Roots, Luke Downey, Aaliyah Hayes, Gemma Black, Miya Burns, Grace Glover, Olivia Forrester, Elle Devoy, Ella Clements, Max Dempsey, Nikos Petrou, Ben Thompson, Luke Thompson, Jamie Gann, Jamie Dunbarton, Tumelo Shiang, Rueben Sinfield, Darcy Nicholson-Parry, Tao Oberholzer, Keira Betonio, Zak Downey, George Whetnall, Katie Fleming, Kian Bough, Demi Dooley, Aislinn Saunders, Freya Smith, Chloe Freeman, Ella Sharp, Daniel McNamara, Neve Jones.

From **Year 7:** Leo Campbell, Megan O'Connell, Finley Rutter, Hannah Thompson, Morgan Swan, Mariama Jawara, Gabriel Nabong, Kayden Charmley, Amelle Morgan, Alex Tulley, Gracie Cross, Kacper Meron, Oliver Harper, Emma Crilly, Lewis Thompson.

Maths

MathsWatch Champions

Students at Woodchurch are dedicated to their studies, this is evident through the hard work they have continued to demonstrate during unprecedented times. Here are the top 5 performers from each year group on MathsWatch:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Kayleigh Steens	Dominic Senior	Megan Sprakes	Megan Bell	Charloote Eccleson
Bethany Robinson	Evie-Mai Sarsfield	Ben Johnson	Connor Højord	Emily Ward
Megan Fox	Brad Downey	Callum Stratton	Gemma Black	Chloe Stewart
Evie Steen	Fletcher Wallace	Samuel Robinson	Thomas Adams	Heather Fox
Jack Taylor	Daniel Pritchard	Fern Ryan	Billy Dean	Mia Bainbridge

Maths Inspiration Event

A group of Year 11's thinking of choosing A-Level Maths went to a Maths Inspiration event at the Storyhouse Theatre in Chester this month. The event, run by Bank of America, was designed to provide pupils with an insight into some of the important Mathematical content covered at A-Level, and was a great success, with students from over 20 schools and colleges attending.

Speakers came from across the UK for the event, with Channel 4 star Hugh Hunt's demonstration of the mathematics of the Boomerang a particular success (thankfully he just missed the heads of our pupils!) and Ben Sparks' presentation on "The Sacred Geometry of Chance" was particularly informative – who knew that the probability of sharing a birthday with someone in a group of 60 is almost certain??? (Well, year 11 do now - Editors note!)

This event was part of our ongoing provision to encourage the aspirations of our best and brightest, and we wish those pupils success in their A-Level studies to come.





Year 10 Trial exams

Year 10 pupils completed their trial exams this half term in the skills of writing, reading and listening. Pupils demonstrated that they had completed a lot of revision for these GCSE-style exams and their endurance during this exam period was fantastic!
¡Felicidades! Félicitations!

Year 7 Trial exams

Year 7 also worked very hard this term to complete their first trial exams at Woodchurch High School. In MFL, pupils showed a lot of resilience when faced with their exam paper, which included translation tasks, a photo card description and a 40-word written task. Pupils worked hard to prepare for their exams and modelled exemplary behaviour during this period.
¡Bien hecho! Bravo!

MFL Home Study

Whilst pupils are following their school timetables at home, remember there are lots of places to find resources to complete home learning!

- On our school's **VLE** you will find MFL resources for each year group. These include reading activities, translations and writing tasks.
- **Seneca** is an online platform that is great for revising your language skills.

In addition to completing the activities set on the VLE and Seneca, you may want to try some of the suggestions below. Just 5-10 minutes a day of practicing language skills will make recalling vocabulary a lot easier!

1. Download the free (and simple to use) language learning app **Duolingo**.
2. **BBC.co.uk/languages** - select '**Spanish**' in the '**Choose your language box**' then click on '**Mi Vida Loca**' to watch the 22 episodes of the interactive video drama.
3. **Quizlet.com** - search for **mflwoodchurch**. Scroll down the list of activities to find topic areas to revise. The 'gravity' game is particularly addictive.
4. **Teachvid.com** - sign up for a free account watch the language videos and try some of the interactive activities.
5. **bbc.co.uk/bitesize** – select secondary then KS3 or GCSE, Modern Foreign Languages then either French or Spanish. Quizzes, videos and interactive exercises on a range of topics, including all those at GCSE (we follow the **AQA specification**).
6. '**Easy Languages**' channel on YouTube – select either **Easy French** or **Easy Spanish**. Subtitles available in the foreign language and English. Good way to develop listening skills and build a wider range of vocabulary.
7. '**Comme une Française**' channel on YouTube – practise pronunciation, learn phrases on a wide range of topics and improve your knowledge of French culture.
8. '**Agencia ELE**' channel on YouTube – Spanish videos on a range of GCSE topics. Subtitles can be turned off and on through the settings button at the bottom of the video screen.
9. **1 jour 1 actu.com** – current affairs website aimed at young, native speakers of French.
10. **Lyricstraining.com** – no need to set up a free account. Practise listening skills by completing gap fill exercises on French or Spanish songs. (Start with 'Beginner' and 'Choice mode').

MFL

Fun ways to practise languages at home

Try one (or all!) of these languages challenges below to learn languages together at home!

- Write your weekly shopping list in either French or Spanish! You could use an online dictionary such as <https://www.wordreference.com/>
- Make a Spanish or French Recipe at home? This is an amazing opportunity to sample some authentic cuisine!

Here's an easy recipe for **Madeleines (France) / Magdalenas (Spain)** – they're lovely lemon cakes! www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/madeleine_15211



Here's another recipe for '**Spanish Tortilla**' by Jamie Oliver. Watch the video by Spanish chef Omar Allibhoy to follow along!

<https://www.jamieoliver.com/recipes/eggs-recipes/spanish-tortilla/>



- Go on a virtual tour of a Spanish / French museum or gallery. You could try the **Louvre** in Paris or **El Prado** in Madrid! <https://www.louvre.fr/en/visites-en-ligne>

Practise a tongue twister in the language you are learning! How quick can you say the full sentence?

Spanish:

Papá pon pan para Pepín, para Pepín pon pan papá.

Dad serves bread for Pepin, for Pepin Dad serves bread.

French:

Cinq chiens chassent six chats

Five dogs hunt five cats.



PE

Sky Sports Women in Media Day

Liverpool John Moores University - March 2020

11 Year 9 Girls went to LJMU for the day to take part in various workshops around promoting women in journalism. They took part in many different workshops, including, live reporting, blog reporting, interviewing techniques and podcasting.

The girls thoroughly enjoyed the day and really took an active role in all of the workshops. They also met and interviewed the 100m and 200m Paralympic wheelchair athlete Samantha Kinghorn, which was a real honour.



Since the enforced school closure members of the PE Department have been in school daily, delivering PE to the pupils present. They have delivered numerous activities and certainly enjoyed the glorious weather.

Exercise has been an important part of the curriculum during this period. After lunch, staff and pupils have an invigorating walk around the perimeter of the school which refreshes them in preparation for the afternoon session.

Eco

Big School Tidy

Despite the School Closure, this has not stopped our pupils doing their part in caring for our School Grounds. They have participated in daily litter picks and together, they have collected 7 full bags of rubbish in one week! This will be excellent preparation for the Great British Spring Clean taking place in September 2020 as we aim to make a difference in our community by expanding our litter picks through out the Woodchurch Area.



Photographing Birds at flight

Pupils who participated in the Big Garden Bird Watch on 27th January captured some beautiful shots of the various birds who made presence in our farm. Photographs are shared on our website.

Committee Bakers

Eco Committee members Charlotte Piercy and Marli Holden participated in the Fair Trade Bake Off. Koby Abbott and Lewis Skelley as Food Tech representatives and Eco Committee members volunteered in supporting staff and bakers during this joyful evening. Charlotte baked a rich chocolate cake that clearly reflected the Fair Trade Theme in the decoration and Marli baked a series of delicious Chocolate mini cakes.

World Wild Life Day

On Tuesday 3rd March, was the global celebration of World Wild Life Day. It is an occasion to celebrate the diverse forms of wild animals and plants on our planet. It is an occasion to raise awareness of the multitude of benefits they provide to people and and work towards change on the urgent threats facing them. This year, World Wildlife Day focused on the topic of *Sustaining All Life on Earth* to raise urgent awareness about the plight of nature and wildlife, and what this means for human wellbeing and the planet.



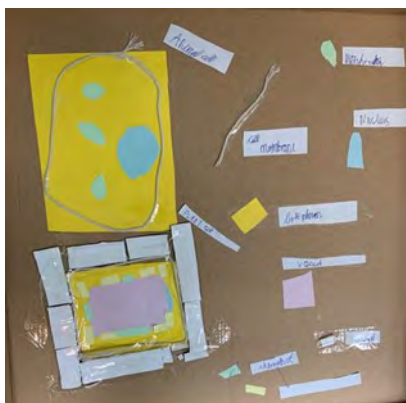
Science

Supporting children of key workers and vulnerable children

Since the enforced school closure, Science teachers have been in school every day to support children of key workers and vulnerable children who are still attending school in small numbers.

As part of the activities that the children have done, they used the microscopes to observe cells from onion and peppers on slides that they created themselves.

The children then created models of cells using everyday materials to represent the different subcellular structures. Some examples can be seen here.



Supporting the NHS

Schools across England have been asked to donate science equipment including goggles to be used by the NHS in a bid to help doctors fighting COVID-19.

School and teachers across the country have been contacted by NHS Trusts in a desperate bid to help frontline staff who are waiting on personal protective equipment (PPE) deliveries that still haven't arrived and while PPE used in schools falls short of medical standards, the consensus is school PPE is better than nothing.



In response to this the Woodchurch High School Science department have donated 267 pairs of safety goggles.

Eco

Our Year 7 Eco Reps worked in teams to discuss and research how to can protect wild life and raise awareness in our community. Here are some of the simple things we can all do to sustain all life on earth:

- **Visit a Zoo, National Wildlife refuge or park and learn about the endangered Species and Animals who live there.**
- **Follow the ECO Code! Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.**
- **Think before you buy. Choose products that are energy efficient and made from sustainable sources. Don't buy products that cause harm to animals and habitats such as disposable plastics or products made from palm oil.**
- **If you see litter outside of School Grounds (walking to or home from School) Dispose of it! Animals can trap their heads in plastic wraps, cut themselves on drink cans and our natural resources can be polluted.**
- **Plant flowers, trees and bushes in your garden! This gives local animals food, shelter and a place to raise families.**

Science

Future Food Challenge – Farm Urban STEM Challenge

Year 9 pupils have been selected to work alongside Farm Urban to learn all about Aquaponics and how to solve problems related to food shortages in the future. All Year 9 pupils enjoyed a TED talk from Paul Myers, Farm Urban Director on Fixing the Broken Food System and Improving Health.

15 pupils visited the University of Liverpool to learn more about setting up a business and the science behind aquaponics. They are now working on their own Future Food project to design, develop and make their own produce pod and business model. Pupils are currently developing their business around providing produce pods to homeless shelters as well as designing and building furniture for homes that would have an aquaponics system in it, so people would not rely on using supermarkets to provide their fresh herbs, vegetables and salad.

Our three fish, Toast Malone, Giovanni and Gurtrude have been working just as hard as our pupils to make the project a real success. The waste, ammonia produced by the fish is converted into nitrates by special bacteria in the produce pod, this is then used by the plants as food to help them grow!



For now, our project has been postponed, so the fish are being looked after by Mr Philcock's little boys for the duration of enforced school closure, he says they have settled into their new home well and are enjoying the break!

Our pupils are really looking forward to getting back to the project once we return to school. Watch this space!

Science

Celebrating STEM Week- Radioactive Trip

On March 12th, 30 of our Yr 9 pupils enjoyed the morning in FACT cinema, celebrating STEM week.

Pupils had the opportunity to see an exclusive preview of Radioactive, the new biographical drama about the life and work of Marie Curie.



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

This was followed by a lecture from Professor Carsten Welsh, Head of the Department of Physics at the University of Liverpool. He spoke to pupils about Marie Curie's life and work and how it is still relevant to some of today's biggest research challenges. He also focused on practical applications of theoretical physics. One example being how research from particle accelerators such as LHC in Cern is being used to create a new generation of cancer treatment. Included in this is the Rutherford Cancer Centres, which will be building a proton beam therapy centre in Liverpool due to open later this year.

<https://www.therutherford.com/centres/north-west/>



Pupils thoroughly enjoyed their visit to FACT, they thought the movie was excellent and really enjoyed hearing about the development in research and potential cancer treatments in the future. It inspired them to think more about careers in STEM.

Science

Celebrating Women in STEM – WiSTEM

On March 4th, fifteen of our Year 7 Science Club girls attended a talk by *The Sky at Night* presenter Maggie Aderin-Pock MBE at Chester University's Thornton Science Park. Maggie has appeared in many BBC documentaries including *Do We Really Need the Moon?* and *In Orbit: How Satellites Rule Our World*, she is a regular panellist on the *Infinite Monkey Cage* podcast but says her proudest moment was when she appeared in an episode of *The Clangers*.



Maggie talked about how a real challenge for her at school was her struggle with dyslexia and how her field of astrophysics, like much of physics is a male dominated world. Maggie spoke with passion about her interests and career, she is so pleased that many more girls are opting to study Science at A level, but most of these are in Biology, there is still a minority of girls studying Physics which narrows the opportunities they will have to access engineering and physics careers.

She encouraged our pupils to think more about studying the things they love and inspired them to think more about the world of physics and engineering. The girls had a great afternoon they had lots of questions to ask Maggie all about her career and their futures in physics.

Unilever Bright Futures Project- AllAboutSTEM

Our Year 9 pupils were invited by All about STEM and Unilever to participate in the Bright Futures Project. Pupils spent the day at Unilever in Port Sunlight. During this exciting event pupils worked in teams to choose a challenge and then take part in numerous hands-on activities which introduced them to the world of processing, packaging, the environment and much more!

Unilever employees and STEM Ambassadors hosted various Bright Future Workshops including: A schools challenge, consumer technical insight, digital technology sessions, a virtual shop, social media, packaging & recycling, sustainable living & global packaging development.

Once the pupils got back to school, full of energy and with amazing ideas they had the opportunity to work in teams to complete the 'Bright Future' challenge. They had three months to design their own end of single use plastic skin care product or affordable sun care product. The girls are currently working on a foamless toothpaste that requires little water and packaging so reduces the amount of plastic involved and is more environmentally friendly. The boys team have designed a sunscreen that is applied within a body wash that comes through the shower head (small capsules are fitted directly into the shower head) ensuring the correct amount is dispensed and it covers the whole body, they have kept costs of the formulation and product low to make sure it is accessible to many people.

We have been really impressed with the teams; creativity, research skills, practical work, design and team work. Pupils will be awarded with a bronze Crest award to celebrate their hard work, dedication and achievement during this project.

Congratulations and well done!



Citizenship



Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award

Pupils in Year 8 have already completed their School Challenge this year by carrying out the Readathon. Pupils in Year 8 sat with pupils in Year 7 and helped them with their reading once a week during form time. This level of Service and Compassion demonstrates key Christian Values that contribute to a Just community based upon respect. The form challenges continue to support our local communities.

One particular form challenge that recently took place with Mr O'Neill's form, 8XW. All the pupils spent the morning at the local sheltered accommodation at Brackenwood. During their morning, they prepared the soil, dug holes, arranged bulbs for planting and then planted them. All the pupils conducted themselves impeccably. They listened carefully to guidance and developed character traits such as Service, Compassion and Trust. We are very proud of all the pupils who took part and the residents will be enjoying their new garden plants in the summer. Well done.



Farm News

Woodchurch High School Farm News



Spring is certainly in the air on the Woodchurch High School Farm. The apple trees are in blossom, the rhubarb is ready to cut, daffodils are in bloom, the hens have started to venture outside and on Sunday 5th April our first lamb of the year was born!



The photos show our first ewe to have a lamb this spring - just one hour old. The ewe's official RBST name is 'Woodchurch Frauline Maria' as you can see in the photo she is besotted with her new ram lamb. The lamb is large for a North Ronaldsay breed he weighed 1.9kg. He's a strong little ram and he took no time at all finding where his mother kept the milk.

The Woodchurch High School flock of sheep are rare breed North Ronaldsay sheep and every year our lambs count toward the national conservation figures for the breed. This year the RBST registered names of the lambs will start with the letter 'J'. Pupils who are attending school regularly named the lamb Justin!

A second lamb was born on 20th April—yet another ram lamb, named Jim by the pupils.

