

## Newsletter - December 2020

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

**Luke 2:11**

### Message from Ms Phillips

We have had a positive and successful term delivering much in all areas of school life. I would particularly highlight the maturity shown by our Year 11 pupils who have engaged with the additional provision - (MIMOs and Period 6), responding with thankfulness for the opportunities at Woodchurch High School. Indeed our newsletter is full of our pupils' contributions of engagement and dedication to learning. The term ended with the Christmas Assemblies led by the newly appointed Bishop of Chester Mark Jones. We also welcomed Christine Broad rector of Holy Cross and Alec Ham from St Mary's.



### Christmas card



During this festive season, faced with the task of creating this year's school Christmas card; we reflected on December's Christian Value of 'Thankfulness.' this year more than ever, it has been humbling to celebrate the gifts that we are given each day and has highlighted how thankful as a community we are for the opportunities our pupils receive to 'let their light shine.' For the cover, we chose the work of our Year 8 3D designer-makers to celebrate their accomplishments in visually exploring the awe and wonder of our solar system and combining this with their investigations into the Scandinavian simplicity of the KNEIP Norway design studio. The simplicity and

elegance of their objects closely echoed the sentiments of spiritual light, the omnipresence of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The composition of the three experimental surface finishes, which present the surfaces of the planets and the stars, also reminds us of the three wise men and God's ultimate gift of Jesus for which we are truly thankful.

We are very grateful to India Amis 8XN, Aaran Graham-Comber 8YN and Ella Standen 8YN, for sharing their good works and helping us to create this thoughtful design.



## Hate Crime

The local police ran a poster competition for young people on the Wirral. Pupils had to design a poster to highlight the need to stop Hate Crimes and the pain and suffering they could cause.

Alexander Mannion (Year 10) produced a poster that attained third prize across all schools on the Wirral.

PC Emily Scarratt came into school to present him with his prize, £25 gift voucher for his work.

This was his striking image.

## Stop Hate Crime



## Wellbeing Week

Woodchurch had a Wellbeing week in school as we looked to continue to support all members of our school community.

There were a variety of activities including Art Therapy lessons in Art, Mindfulness lessons in English and in Science pupils looked at endorphins - happy hormones!

Pupils and staff wore stickers stating what made them happy and each morning forms discussed wellbeing with reference to our Christian Values. Their thoughts were displayed in the foyer.



Pupils and staff were also able to nominate each other for Thank You Awards to say thank you for service and compassion that they had received.





# Christian Values

## December: *Thankfulness*



*Clothes, phones, coats will not make you happy for ever.*

*Be thankful for what you have got, don't think all the time about what you've not got.*

*Your family, friends, health and well-being will make you happy.*

# Chaplaincy

A message for our Chaplain Malcolm Kydd

In Collective Worship this half term we have been looking at the Christian Values of Compassion and Thankfulness. Compassion is about reaching out to those who are suffering or having a tough time; it's about action, a desire to change a bad situation, stepping out and making a difference. It's also about connecting with people and comforting them in their situations. This term we have seen compassion in action in our school community as we have collected for the Christians Against Poverty Christmas Hampers, seen the year 9s complete their Archbishop of York form challenges, and as we have begun our form charity fundraising events. Everyone has shown tremendous compassion and generosity in the way they've contributed – and thank you to everyone at home for your help and support in all of these things.

In December we have looked at our value of Thankfulness. We know that this has been a difficult year for many people, and that there are often times when we don't feel like thanking God (or anyone else) – when things are difficult, if times are hard, if we've lost someone close to us or if we feel lost or alone or angry. Thankfulness isn't about being happy or thankful because bad things are happening, but it nudges us to remember that whatever our circumstances, there will be something we can be thankful for – we can thank God for his love and commitment to us; for our health, our homes, our families, friends, school and for the hope of eternal life.



Christmas is fast approaching and at a time when people are so generous it's especially important to make sure we are being thankful. Generosity isn't just about the amount of money someone spends on Christmas presents; generosity and selflessness are seen and shown in many different ways –



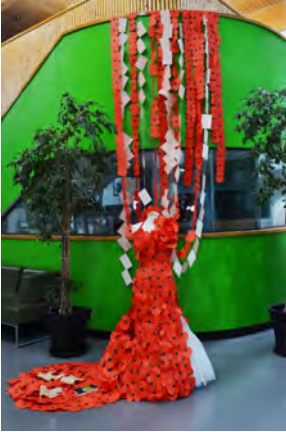
we should be thankful to the people who give us their time, their patience, and those who display kindness and thoughtfulness towards us, not just those that buy us gifts. Being thankful encourages us to think of all that we have, which puts everything into perspective a bit more. Gratitude and thankfulness lead to contentment and peace; if we're grateful for what we already have, we find that we're less urgently seeking to get more and more, and we can be happy and content with what we have.

We received a letter of thanks from CAP Wirral saying that the donations from school enabled them to make 40 hampers for the families with financial issues that they support; in fact, there was so much generosity shown in the food donated from school that they had more than they needed and were able to use the excess to offer hampers to other churches across Wirral for families that they work with, and to give supplies to Charles Thompson's Mission in Birkenhead (which works with the homeless in the area). The families receiving the hampers were extremely thankful and felt very blessed by the generosity shown to them, and they all had huge smiles on their faces when they received their hampers.

As Christmas approaches, we pray that you will have plenty of things to be thankful for, and that you have a very blessed time as you celebrate together and remember the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, who came into the world to show God's great love for us.



# ECAD



## Remembrance Day

The idea for the 'Woodchurch High School Dress of Remembrance', was born from a comment made by one of Our Year 7 pupils who asked if, "we would be able to sell and buy poppies this year in School?" Sadly, due to health and safety reasons, the answer was, "no". This then prompted Mrs Jones into thinking of another way that the school could remember and share thankfulness for the sacrifices made and for pupils individually to show personal messages of gratitude and thankfulness.

A poppy was cut for each pupil and member of staff in our community. Handwritten messages were added to the dress. 1300 poppies were then stitched and constructed onto our dress.

The dress then became a symbol of Hope and Remembrance, as pupils and staff continued to add personal messages. The dress stood proudly in the school foyer, with the waterfall of poppies cascading down the back.

It wasn't just pupils and staff from Woodchurch High School that were touched by the dress and those messages of Hope were 'shared' over 200 times on social media and the dress also featured in the local news.

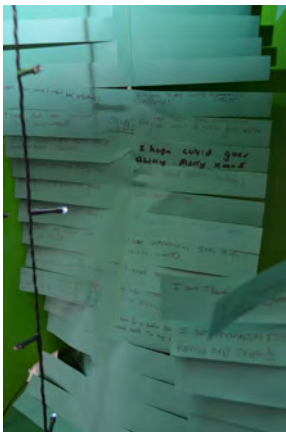


Each poppy came with a small donation and over £300 was raised for Earl Haig Fund.

A huge thank you to everyone involved!.

## TREE OF HOPE

This year we are displaying a Tree of Hope in the school foyer. This is our celebration of Hope and Giving during this festive season. We have asked each pupil and every member of staff to write a personal message of their choice to show thankfulness, a memory of a loved one and / or wishes of Hope for the future. We also asked parents and carers to join our celebration by sending their comments too. All message have been added to the branches of the tree for all to see. Contributions were made by all involved and will be donated to our school's chosen charities for this academic year.



# English

## Year 7

This term, Year 7 students have been continuing to study the complex text of 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens. They have progressed in the novel by completing character analysis of the Artful Dodger, the Noble Nancy and the Villainous Sikes. Students have refined their analysis skills by looking at how language can create an effective character.

Whilst reading Oliver Twist, students have been able identify and discuss the various Woodchurch Christian Values that are used throughout the novel and how they affect Oliver's life, including, trust, integrity, compassion, endurance and justice.

Students have also been creating descriptive settings using various language devices and descriptive techniques to create a convincing and detailed setting in preparation for their upcoming assessments.

Students will need to put their evaluation skills to the test in their assessment, judging how Dickens portrays his characters and the ways he persuades us to feel a certain way.

Pupils have also been developing their descriptive writing skills, looking at how to write using the 5 senses, similes and metaphors, and personification to name a few!

It's been a tough first term, Year 7, but you have made an excellent start! Congratulations!



## Year 8

This half term, Year 8 have been exploring the horrifying landscape of Eel Marsh House in Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black*. They have been delving into the depths of the marshes in order to gain inspiration for their own creative writing.

They have been learning how to write their own gothic settings using ambitious adjectives and figurative language such as metaphors, similes and personification. Year 8 have also been enjoying creating their own gothic characters and dipping their toes into the world of the supernatural. Ahead of their assessment at the end of term, they have also been learning all about how to structure short stories and build tension in their writing just like Hill does in *The Woman in Black*.

We have all been on the edge of our seats reading *The Woman in Black* and discovering who the ghostly lady really is and as a department we can't wait to see what Year 8 can do in their own Gothic stories!



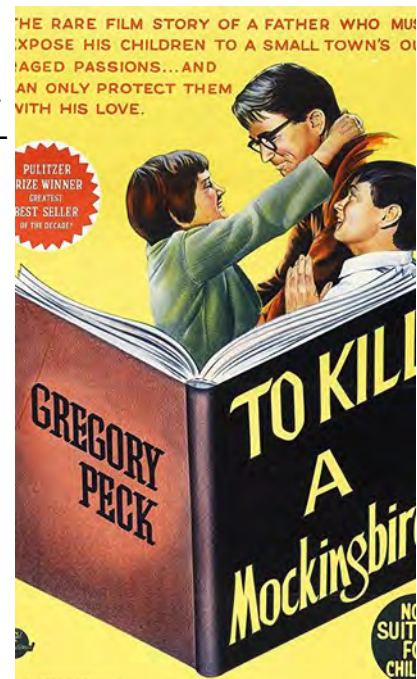
# English

## Year 9

So far this term, Year 9 have worked incredibly hard studying either John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, or Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Through their study of each of these texts, Year 9 have analysed many meaningful and currently relevant topics; including racism, sexism and the treatment of those less fortunate. Year 9 have been looking at these issues through both the lens of each novel, and through the lens of our own Christian Values.

Once reading of these novels was wrapped up, Year 9 began looking at the War Poetry from the Eduqas Poetry Anthology as inspiration for their own narrative writing, which will be part of their exam in the first week back to school in January. Pupils have enjoyed studying Owen's horrific description of a gas attack, Brooke's patriotic sonnet to England and Hardy's tragic 'A Wife in London'. All of these poems will be studied as part of Year 9's GCSE course in Years 10 and 11.

Moving forward, Year 9 need to be practising Language 1 techniques in preparation for their centre assessed examinations in January. This includes 'What impressions' questions, 'How does the writer' questions and 'To what extent do you agree' questions. All of these can be found in your English PLC booklet. Using the Google Classroom facilities, your teacher will be able to send you some example papers to practise. Practice makes perfect, after all!





# English

## Year 10

Year 10 are well underway in their studies of the first GCSE text, Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. Pupils have explored the various themes from the play in depth that include ambition, morality, guilt and manipulation to name a few. Year 10 have been using their Learning Guides to support their fantastic ideas, which have proven to be a great success!

Students have had countless debates within lessons surrounding the characters and key events within the play. They have engaged well with some of the violent and immoral actions we encounter within it, sharing their unique and interesting takes on the actions of these complex characters - particularly the controversial Lady Macbeth!



Year 10 have been very committed to their studies in English, being conscientious in their revision which met with a fantastic turn out to Saturday College, hosted by Miss Griffiths and Miss Smethurst. This reflected in their first examinations for English that took place in the week commencing the 23rd November, where students came out of the exam feeling confident in their knowledge of the play and responses to the two extract questions.

Year 10 have made an excellent start to their GCSE studies and the department would like to thank all students for their resilience during this tough exam period.

Year 10 are now moving into their next phase of study; The Eduqas Poetry Anthology. This is an exciting opportunity for students to explore poetry from sonnets - first discovered in the 13th century - to the contemporary. Students are given the opportunity to explore themes of Romanticism, conflict and war, industrialisation and modernism in the Anthology.



# English

## Year 11

As the Autumn term comes to an end, Year 11 are continuing to work hard towards their GCSEs in English Language and Literature. Moving on from Language Component 1 and all their non-fiction writing, Year 11 are now focused on learning about J.B.Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* and refining their knowledge of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* in Period 6 lessons. However, pupils should continue to practise non-fiction writing tasks in their revision to continue to develop their skills.



Pupils are engaging well with the themes of social responsibility and compassion prevalent in each of these texts, particularly in the current climate of Covid-19. The transformation of Scrooge from a selfish miser to a compassionate, friendly gentleman is just the heart-warming tale we all need in the run up to Christmas. And Priestley's message is crucial too: we all must look after each other and think of more than ourselves for a just society. Year 11 are increasingly enthusiastic about these stories and themes, which will serve them well when it comes to revision.

Speaking of revision, now is the time when we encourage Year 11 pupils to engage with regular revision of English, both Language and Literature, to ensure all knowledge is fully embedded for their exams. To achieve this, revision guides and copies of the set texts are available to purchase from the English Department and we have a number of recommended revision tools detailed on the Student Intranet, such as flashcards, concept maps, condensed notes and mnemonics. Also on the Student Intranet, pupils can find a range of videos and other resources to help with revision of each set text and component of the English GCSEs. Pupils can access these on computers, tablets and even their phones!

Year 11 will sit their first round of centre assessed examinations on the second week in January with a focus on Language. It is important that pupils are revising Language over the break, especially those fabulous stories they will have to write! Remember, your teachers will be able to share any resources with you that you feel you will need to support you.

# Drama

## Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have continued with their study of drama through the exploration of Theatre History! Pupils have moved from looking at the origins of theatre in Ancient Greece to looking at more modern aspects of theatre like Pantomime. Pupils have really enjoyed considering key features of this performance style and using exaggeration, comedy and direct address to bring to life their melodramatic characters! Well Done, Year 7!



## Year 8



This half-term Year 8 have continued with their exploration of Darkwood Manor! From exploring different methods to create tension and considering theatre practitioners like Antonin Artaud pupils have then worked to create their own devised performances. These performances have included key elements of Artaud's theatre of cruelty as pupils aimed to terrify their audiences using techniques such as audience involvement, animalistic movement and soundscape.

## Year 9

Year 9 have made continued to work on their understanding of War and Conflict, exploring different stimuli that links to several real world issues. Pupils found learning about 9/11 incredibly interesting and have been considering the Syrian Refugee Crisis, developing compassion for people in such situations.

Pupils are now working on their own performances, some are exploring ideas around World War One where others are looking at the conflict caused in our modern world by things like social media.

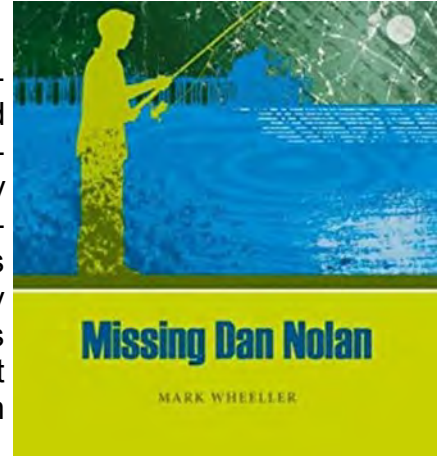


We can't wait to see their final performances for their assessments next week!

# Drama

## Year 10

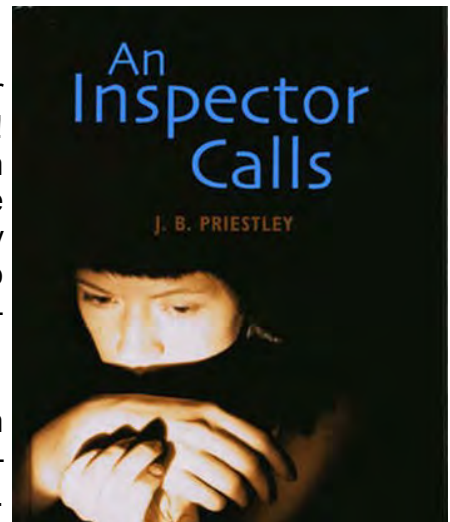
Year 10 have continued to develop their knowledge of different theatre practitioners this half-term and have looked at the playwright Mark Wheeler. Pupils have loved exploring his play, *Missing Dan Nolan*. Based on a true story Mark explores the tale of fifteen year old Dan's disappearance through the words of his friends and family. Pupils have worked to consider how they might stage the play as a performer, director and designer. Their mock exams showed really engagement with the story and we can't wait to see how they further develop these skills next term with our next exam text, Dennis Kelly's *DNA*.



## Year 11

Year 11 have completed their practical performance for Component 1 of their GCSE and performed brilliantly! They explored ideas around Fairytale and Imagination and developed stories exploring real world issues like gender stereotyping, narcissistic relationships and body image. Pupils' performances were incredibly moving to watch and really encouraged us, as an audience, to consider different perspectives.

Moving forward now, Year 11 are starting to focus on their set text, J.B.Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* in readiness for their centre-assessed examinations in January. Good Luck, Year 11!





# Humanities



## **Fun Geography tasks to do at home!**

With Christmas round the corner have you ever thought about how it is celebrated in other countries. Have a go at this quiz to find out <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/quizzes/bp-worldwide-christmas-traditions-quiz>

For younger members you can track Santa in real time as he delivers presents on Christmas eve using this NASA website <https://www.noradsanta.org/>

### **Year 7**

Year 7 have just completed the unit on map skills. A great, fun way to build up these skills is using the Mapzone website:

<https://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/mapzone/>

### **Year 8**

Year 8 have looked at the Rainforest, how different animals and plants have adapted to the environment. We have looked at the causes of deforestation and how this has local national and global impacts.

### **Year 9**

Year 9 are looking at the 'Geography of Coasts', how waves shape the landscape around us and the problems of landslides. A good place to check out landslides is Thurstaston beach. So to work off the Christmas dinner go for a walk and have a look!

### **Year 10**

Year 10 have been looking at 'Urban Issues' GCSE unit for Paper 2, this looks at the problems facing us in an increasingly urbanised world. They have studied Liverpool, looking at its social, economic and environmental issues and how these issues have tried to be resolved. We have also discussed the impacts of the slave trade on its growth. Year 10 recently attended at Saturday support morning, and they were outstanding, well done year 10!

### **Year 11**

Year 11 have been revisiting Paper 1 knowledge in lessons, completing the Living world section. In Period 6, we have been looking at the 'Global resources' topic and how the development gap can be reduced.

# Humanities

We've been getting stuck in this half term! From enquiry-based learning at Key Stage Three to preparing for exams at Key Stage Four, our Historians have been very busy. Our mission is to help our students to understand our world and find their place in it.

Our [History website](#) is being rolled out, and has a wealth of resources to supplement our students learning.

## Year 7

Year 7 students have begun an enquiry that answers a very big question - *Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?* Arguably one of the most significant events in history of our nation, the Battle of Hastings opened the door to a new age of feudalism, castles and one of life's great certainties - taxes! Our students are discovering the nature of medieval kingship and the rise and rapid demise of Harold II - king for just nine months.

Students can learn more about this topic here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zsjnb9q/revision/1>

## Year 8

It's the perfect time of year for our Year 8 students to challenge the official account of that explosive rogue, Guy Fawkes. For centuries he has been condemned as the sinister plotter of regicide - but our students are investigating new evidence which suggests that he might have been framed. Only the government had the license to sell gunpowder in the 17th century - and the records suspiciously went missing! And it was certainly a convenient excuse for James I to come down hard on the rebellious Catholics!

Students can improve their knowledge using the links on our [History website](#).

## Year 9

Year 9 students have been engrossed in the stories of the Roaring Twenties, from jazz to flappers, prohibition to Al Capone. Students have discovered both sides of the debate about prohibition and that the images and posters produced by both sides can have a purpose - to influence the views of others. We need to be aware of this and avoid taking them at face value! Students are preparing for their trial exam in January - good luck!



Students can consolidate their understanding of prohibition here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zpmhw6f/revision/1>

# Humanities

## Year 10

Year 10 students have worked really hard to prepare for their centre assessed examinations this week. They've been revising both the Health and Medicine paper and the paper on Germany; making flashcards and other revision materials to aid their retention. In lessons we're beginning the rise of Hitler and discovering why anyone would vote for such a person. The hard times of the Great Depression certainly played a part, as did Hitler's exceptional oration; a stark reminder that we must evaluate the reliability of the things that we read and watch.

Students can continue to improve their knowledge using our [History website](#).

## Year 11

Year 11s have completed the fascinating topic of Civil Rights and many have begun investigating the political change that took place under Presidents Kennedy, Nixon, Reagan and Clinton. This certainly was an eventful forty years - from the Cuban Missile Crisis to the Vietnam War, Watergate to Reagan's 'Star Wars' program of missile development. Students are working hard in lessons to prepare for their centre assessed examinations revisiting past topics and preparing revision materials. We wish them the best of luck in their preparation.

Students can continue to improve their knowledge using our [History website](#).

## Humanities Extra Curricular Activities

This half term the Humanities Curriculum Area launched two new and exciting opportunities for pupils.

Homework support club is taking place every Monday lunchtime in Hu3 for Year 8 pupils. This is a staffed club where pupils can come and get help and support with their homework for RS, Geography and History, as well as help with revision.

Debate club was also launched this half term. This is aimed at Year 9 pupils and is an excellent opportunity to come and discuss and debate some really interesting and important issues that are happening in our world. As well as helping pupils with their oracy skills, it is also a fantastic opportunity to help boost pupils' confidence and broaden their knowledge. It takes place every Wednesday lunchtime in Hu3.

Both clubs are coordinated by Miss Butters and Mrs Lewis. Pupils can see these members of staff for more details.



# Humanities

This half term has seen the launch of the RS Google Site. This is a fantastic resource with a wealth of information and resources. For Years 10 and 11, as well as all of our revision guides on the site, we have a recorded lesson for every sub-topic of the GCSE course. This is a great way for pupils to revise, as well as helping them to catch up on any work missed due to absence. For KS3 pupils all our PLCs and knowledge organisers are on the site and we will be working on recorded lessons over the next few months. We would encourage all pupils and parents /carers to have a look round and familiarise themselves with the site which can be accessed through the school's website by clicking on - Pupil Intranet-Subject areas-Religious Studies.

Pupils have been working hard this half term. Year 7 have been completing the Christianity Learning programme and have enjoyed looking at Christian practices such as Pilgrimage and Festivals. Year 8 have continued with their Faith in Action Learning Program, where they have studied how individuals such as Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King have put their faith, and indeed our Christian Values into action. Year 9 are just coming to the end of the Environment Learning Programme, in which they have really enjoyed looking at very important issues, such as Climate Change and Animal Rights, and how Christians and Humanists respond to them. Year 9 will be sitting their trial exam at the start of next half term. They will be given revision materials and they will also be available on our Google Site.

Our GCSE pupils have been working very hard. Year 10 have just sat their trial exam and we look forward to sharing some of their successes next half term. Year 11 are currently completing their revision programme and are preparing to sit their centre assessed examinations next term.



# Maths



November saw the launch of a fun daily puzzle for KS3 students embedding the use of bar modelling in problem solving. The competition was enthusiastically approached and we will announce the winners before the end of term. An example of the Barvember problems which were posed.

A shop sells roses.

- $\frac{2}{3}$  of the roses are red.
- The rest are white roses.
- There are 30 red roses.

How many more white roses are there than red roses?

	Model	Calculations
Red		$30 \div 2 = 15$ $3 \times 15 = 45$
White	15 15 15 15 15	

## Pupil Voice

Both KS3 and KS4 students were given an opportunity to use Pupil Voice and communicate their feelings toward maths lessons at Woodchurch High School. Despite the difficulties presented by the current climate; an overwhelming number of students have felt that they have settled back into school, learning and using Hegarty Maths.

79% of KS4 students report that Hegarty Maths has helped them to become more independent learners.

89% of KS3 students reported that the Do Now tasks have been helpful to them in remembering key information and concepts.

## Saturday College for Year 10

Ahead of their Centre Assessed examinations, approximately 130 Year 10 students came into school for a revision session on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November reflecting their high aspirations for success which will no doubt be reflected in their grades.

## CASIO CALCULATORS for Sale in the Maths Hub

Just a reminder that all students should have their own scientific calculators, and we are selling the Casio FX 83GTX calculator for £8 from the Maths Hub. This price represents a significant saving from the RRP of £14.99 for one the best school calculators available.

# ICT/Business Studies

## Year 8 Computing

Year 8 pupils are developing their coding skills by programming their own car racing games using Scratch. Pupils have been making sure their games are as exciting as possible by programming lap counters, timers and speed reduction features if a player goes off the race track. In doing so, students are developing key skills in problem solving which will help shape them into tomorrow's Computer Scientists.

## BTEC IT

Students studying BTEC IT have been completing a piece of coursework designing a touch screen interface which could be placed in a stadium to show people where the facilities are. They have had to think about how easy to use their system is, making sure that it is accessible for people with disabilities or other special needs. They have also had to think about a colour scheme and house style for the interface so that it is consistent as well as recording page instructions that could be read out. This practical element of the course has been completed extremely well by the students and has been one that they have enjoyed doing. Below are some examples of the work they have put together.



George Whetnall



Christian Smith



# ICT/Business Studies

## **Business Studies**

### **Year 11**

#### **GCSE-**

Year 11 pupils have currently been learning about how businesses can grow/expand and how they can finance this growth.

Both GCSE exam papers are to be taken in June 2021.

Revision guides are available from Mrs Hulse for £3.

Revision material (pre recorded lessons) including past papers can be found on the pupils intranet site (link to this can be found on the school website).

Mrs Hulse can also provide paper based revision material if required.

Revision sessions are being held on Friday mornings, 7.50am in ICT 1, all pupils are welcome to attend.

#### **CN OCR-**

Year 11 pupils have recently finished the business finance unit of work and have been revising exam content. This was their final unit of work before sitting their exam.

The written exam is Wed 13th January 2021, in the morning.

Revision guides are available for £3.

Revision material can also be found on the pupil intranet.

### **Year 10**

#### **GCSE-**

Year 10 pupils have recently been learning about the different types of ownership for businesses and the purpose of business plans.

Revision guides are available for £3.

Revision sessions are being run on Friday mornings, ICT 1 at 8am.

#### **OCR-**

Year 10 pupils have recently been learning about different advertising methods that businesses can use.

Revision guides are available for £3.

### **Year 9**

Options material - any pupils in Year 9 who would like additional information about the GCSE Business Studies course or the OCR Business and Enterprise course, please come and see Mrs Hulse in ICT 1, who can go through the course contents.

# MFL

The MFL department would like to say a big thank you to pupils studying French and Spanish. Pupils have continued their excellent work and have shown outstanding endurance and commitment to their learning this term. ¡Gracias! Merci!

## Year 10 Trial exams

Year 10 have recently completed their trial exams in reading, writing and listening in MFL. Year 10 have shown a great commitment to their learning through their hard work in revising for these exams. They have also demonstrated the progress they have made this term and have shown excellent endurance when experiencing what it will be like to sit their final exams at the end of Year 11. Thank you and well done for all of your hard work so far! ¡Felicidades, félicitations Year 10!



## Year 11 Centre-Assessed Exams

Year 11 pupils will soon be taking their centre assessed exams in January for reading, writing and listening. At home, pupils should be revising the 'Hub Phrases', 'Booster Verbs' and the key tenses in preparation for these. Revision materials will also be available on the MFL Google Site which is now up and running.



Pupils can also use online websites such as DuoLingo, Memrise and Quizlet to revise vocabulary. Practice exam questions are also available on BBC Bitesize, and any other support needed pupils should ask their MFL teacher. Revision guides are available to order from the MFL staff base. ¡Buena suerte! Bonne chance!



## Modern Languages Google Website

The MFL Google Site is now up and running and is a space where pupils can access a range of materials to support their studies. The site is continually being updated, so if pupils have any suggestions of what would be a useful addition, or some creative ideas, please see Mr Bowman in MFL 6. Currently, pupils can access GCSE French revision materials, with GCSE Spanish and KS3 resources coming soon!



## Home Learning and Revision

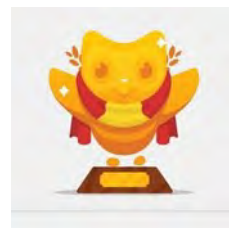
There are lots that parents and carers can do to support our pupils completing home learning for French and Spanish, using a range of online resources.

We would recommend:

- ◇ Visit our new Google Site for an expanding range of MFL resources, especially for GCSE revision.
- ◇ 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.

If you feel that you would like to refresh your language skills in small chunks, you may want to try some of these suggested activities. 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.



# MFL

## Linguist of the Month

The following pupils have been nominated by their class teacher for 'Linguist of the Month' for excellent commitment to their studies this half term in French and Spanish. Thank you for your effort and endurance. Well done, and keep up the good work!

### Year 7

- ★ Georgia Clarke
- ★ Alex Cullen
- ★ Baylen Farnworth
- ★ Olivia Fishwick
- ★ Olivia Gonzalez
- ★ Charlie Hyde
- ★ Amelia McLaughlin
- ★ Jack Ormond
- ★ Corryn-Lacey Richardson
- ★ Joe Roberts

### Year 8

- ★ Joshua Allan-Holding
- ★ Faye Baker
- ★ Erin Bimson
- ★ Tara Clerkin
- ★ Zackary Ellison
- ★ Cody Fitzgerald
- ★ Megan Fox
- ★ Ethan Golding
- ★ Karla Hughes
- ★ Amelia Jones
- ★ Ellis Jones
- ★ Gabriel Nabong
- ★ Arabella Parsons
- ★ Jack Rimmer
- ★ Finley Tempest
- ★ Alfie Thomas
- ★ Abigail Trueman
- ★ Josh Ward
- ★ Michelle Wildblood
- ★ James Wright
- ★ Jacob Wynne



### Year 9

- ★ Thomas Barratt
- ★ Maisie Bell
- ★ Alexis Bridgen
- ★ Rebecca Duckers
- ★ Grace Gateland
- ★ Leah Gillam
- ★ Lucy Hayes
- ★ Marli Holden
- ★ Samuel Jacobs
- ★ Sarah Jones
- ★ Olivia McNelis
- ★ Rebecca Reece Jones
- ★ Maire Selby
- ★ Emily Upton
- ★ Fletcher Wallace

### Year 10

- ★ Samuel Bowen
- ★ Alfie Chesters
- ★ Alex Harper
- ★ James Hughes
- ★ Luke Ivers
- ★ Hannah Martin

### Year 11

- ★ Mollie Derbyshire
- ★ Max Hughes
- ★ Ella Natton
- ★ Ellie Owens

# Eco

## Bike To School

Cycling is more than just a physical activity, it provides an opportunity to develop social skills, resilience and independence. Once every term we participate in Bike To School week to encourage as many of our pupils as possible to make their daily journey to Woodchurch High School in order to reduce as much air pollution from vehicles. Every pupil who participated was entered into a daily raffle with 1 prize per day for each Year Group. There were 25 prizes in total! Cameron in 7YZ was the winner of the Grand Prize Hamper Raffle for pupils who rode their bicycles every day during the week.



## Caring for the Community

Litter Picks in our School Grounds and Community take place on a fortnightly basis. The Year 7 Eco Committee conducted a survey to identify the most littered items in our area and Year 10s are working on public service posters to target litter in areas outside of our School Grounds.

## Young Journalist Competition

Congratulations to the members of the Year 7 Eco Committee for winning a prize selection of Eco Goodies for the Young Journalist Competition from Eco Schools Wirral. They produced and performed a short campaign to raise awareness of how litter impacts our world and what our actions as a community can do to make a difference. They will be developing an exciting new production in the new year and are more motivated than ever to ensure that we raise awareness of the difference we can make and how we can protect our planet!

We would like to thank Isaac Burchall in 11XS for all of his support and contribution.



# Active8+

On Saturday 21st November, our Year 7 pupils participated in the first session of Active 8+, an exciting new programme that offers our children the opportunity to participate in a variety of fun and interactive activities that are designed to develop their skills in team-work, problem solving and enterprise.



As part of the first survival skills session led by Mr Hulse (Pupil Progress Leader of Year 7) the pupils were teamed and tasked in starting campfires and maintaining the flame by finding and applying natural materials. They worked together safely to light the fires using flint and steel lighters, and developed resilience and endurance as it was not an easy task!



Mrs O'Neill and her assistant inspired our pupils to cook with confidence by demonstrating how to make delicious tortilla calzones. The pupils demonstrated independence in food preparation and presentation of their ingredients. They were challenged to try new ingredients that they hadn't used or tasted before. Pupils enjoyed making their calzones, and more importantly, eating them!

### **YEAR 9 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER** **Archbishop of York Awards 2020/21**

The Year 9 Cohort are currently undertaking their Archbishop of York Awards. This award is an excellent opportunity for our children to empower themselves to serve their communities and care for others and also build their resilience and ability to work as a team.

Our children have actively engaged in contributing to the AOY award as follows:

- ♦ A 'thank you' cake bake for our staff where our children baked a number of cakes and delivered them wrapped with a thank you message to their chosen member of staff. Our children displayed thankfulness to their teachers.
- ♦ Our children have been posting Christmas Cards to members of our community and handing them to people in Birkenhead. Our children displayed compassion to others to celebrate Christmas and are aware that it is a difficult time for some.
- ♦ The Year Group have planted flowers at Brakendale Sheltered Accommodation to brighten up the communal areas of the home. The children work with that community and displayed service and compassion to those that they served.
- ♦ Our children had an excellent morning at the Sunningdale Sheltered Accommodation. The children planted trees and cleared all the plant beds. They worked so hard during the morning and cleared so many leaves and weeds and showed great commitment and service. The community were so grateful.
- ♦ The Year group has packed Harvest bags that were delivered to Christians Against Poverty again showing great service to the community and compassion towards others.
- ♦ The cohort have prior to March attended a number of afternoon tea events at local retirement homes, interacting with the residents and showing great compassion and understanding with a different age group. The children engaged positively and let their light shine bringing positivity and kindness to the residents.

It is a pleasure to see our children commit themselves to AOY and to see them develop many of the traits of our Christian Ethos and it is so important that they see the impact that the Ethos has to benefit of others. We are proud of them!

We are looking forward to awarding all involved pupils with their Archbishop of Yourk Award and Badge in early 2021.



# Reaseheath Project

Three Year 10 pupils have been involved with tutors from Reaseheath College developing skills and knowledge on land and animal based projects, including horticulture and arboriculture; at Westlake in Cheshire. Sam, Emma and Fletcher have recently completed a natural creative art work which was displayed on the grounds of Westlake. Pupils began with an outline plan of the design and Fletcher took the lead of project manager. A decision was made on what materials would be used and pupils set to work foraging in the wooded area for natural resources. After four wheelbarrow loads of leaves and logs taken from the ground pupils set to work with the display. Large branches were placed in a circular arrangement and Sam, Emma and Fletcher began filling the middle with leaves. Eyes and antlers were added and a collection of red small stones had been collected for the nose. Everyone was pleased with the end result and thoroughly enjoyed creating their masterpiece.

As well as creative art, pupils have used skills in identifying trees around the land. Using the tree survey pupils were able to search and identify the species of tree, age range, shape of leaf and also the future management of the tree. Trees researched have included Oak, Beech and Manchester poplar. Skills and knowledge learned will be transferred to inform younger pupils involved on our school farm.

Each pupil has a booklet to record what skills they have learned and developed and include pupils have written that they have enjoyed tree identification, how they can now effectively plan out a project; Fletcher being very proud to be able to lead a group of people, and finally how to tell the difference between a spade and a shovel to be able to dig and remove turf.

Next term preparing and the development of the polytunnel.



# Year 7

Mr Hulse, Pupil Progress Leader Year 7 is proud to inform us of an incredible act of Compassion and Service from Phoebe Pendlebury 7XE.

Phoebe spent her Sunday morning mopping her neighbours kitchen - it took some time to get clean. Her neighbour is diabetic and was taken to hospital recently as he was hyperglycaemic.

He hasn't been coping well and Phoebe's family have been sorting his house out for him. Phoebe donned the necessary PPE and gave up her Sunday morning to help.

Well done Phoebe, you have lived out our Christian Values.

# Aspirational Speaker

Dave Bolton came into school to talk to our Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils. His miraculous story was an inspiration for staff and pupils alike. When Dave was twenty, he had an horrific motorbike crash and his whole leg was only hanging on by a single artery...

The Doctors offered to amputate his leg and said he would never do sports again, but he chose to endure a long recovery and keep his leg. He was then diagnosed with cancer. It was a brain tumour and he was told he had a very slim chance of living. He fought it off and then it returned and he was told it was terminal and he had to prepare to die. When he was closest to death he had a fifteen minute seizure and the Doctors nearly didn't resuscitate.

He was then inspired to take up kickboxing and he became a world champion! He now travels around the country inspiring people with his amazing life story.

Feedback from the pupils was outstanding and several pupils said that his message of, "living your life" has motivated them to work harder in school and take advantage of opportunities presented.

# Year 11

Year 11 have made an excellent start, well done! Period 6 lessons are well attended and MIMO sessions are proving to be beneficial to our students.

Our recent Expectations Evening was a great success; thank you to everyone who attended. Bital messages were communicated about the upcoming Centre Assessed GCSEs, preparation and support. If you missed the evening or would like to view it again, you can request a video recording of the event from Miss K Griffiths **email the following address.**

[kirsty.griffiths@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:kirsty.griffiths@woodchurchhigh.com)



# Farm News

This December we have missed hosting the Farm Christmas Fair, which we all enjoy as it signals the start of the Christmas season. We have also missed meeting the school's wider family community as every year you support the farm by buying hot dogs, hot chocolate and the homemade trinkets that cannot be found on the high street. The Christmas Fair is a major fundraiser for the farm so this year we had to get inventive ...

Last week we sent out an advert offering animal adoption for sale - and you didn't disappoint. A whopping 50 were purchased bringing in £500 for the farm. A very massive THANK YOU to all who bought an animal adoption pack. Keep a look out in February as we plan to offer Valentine's Day adoption packs!

For the past month we have been running an after school Tuck Shop, providing staff and children with snacks and hot chocolate drinks to take the chill off the commute home. This has raised £00 for the farm. The Woodchurch High School PTA has also awarded £1000 to the school. Farm.

All the money raised by the goodwill of parents, carers, children, staff and the PTA will go to the care of the farm animals. The farm is a wonderful resource enjoyed by the children in school. Your generosity has helped to ensure the sustainability of the farm until next year when the Farm Christmas Fair will be bigger and better than ever!

Again, thank you.





# Remote Learning & Live Lessons

## Remote Learning

At the end of the last academic year, we notified pupils and parents of the exciting plans that were underway for eLearning at Woodchurch, including developments with G-Suite for Education.

G-Suite for Education is a suite of tools/apps, available through Google, to increase opportunities for thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, whilst supporting the delivery of our curriculum and day-to-day lessons.

After a term's introduction, we can say with confidence that these tools are relevant to pupils, easy to use, and are opening doors to many new ways to learn. They offer:

- 24/7 access, meaning pupils and staff can work;
- access on any device, including phones, tablets, laptops, computers - even gaming devices;
- one login for everything, meaning pupils do not have to remember countless passwords;
- opportunities for collaboration in the classroom and in a virtual/remote setting.

We have remained committed to providing continuity of education to pupils this term through G-Suite, and it has had a crucial role to play in terms of our provision.

## Live Lessons

Since September, we have been able to deliver lessons to pupils in real time as per curriculum and lesson plans. This has been enabled by *Google Classroom, Google Meet, and GMail, and has been necessary where pupils or staff have been isolating.*

Pupils have attended lessons remotely, completing the work as they would do in school, using a chat function to liaise with teaching staff, and submitting their work, in accordance with the instruction given by their class teacher.

This has meant that pupils are involved in the learning experience, able to follow their timetable, have access to teacher support and crucially, are not missing out on any more learning opportunities.

We have received some really positive feedback from parents and pupils about this provision and training remains underway, as we look to improve our practice.

*I just wanted to pass my thanks on to the teachers who have taught [name] virtually today. It has worked really well and [name] has been eager to take part which is good to see. Can I also pass my thanks on to the school for keeping us informed during this week and notifying ourselves that [name] is able to return to school tomorrow.*

*A Parent/Carer*

*I felt left out at first but I then really enjoyed being able to work at my own pace and in my own space.*

*A Year 11 Pupil*

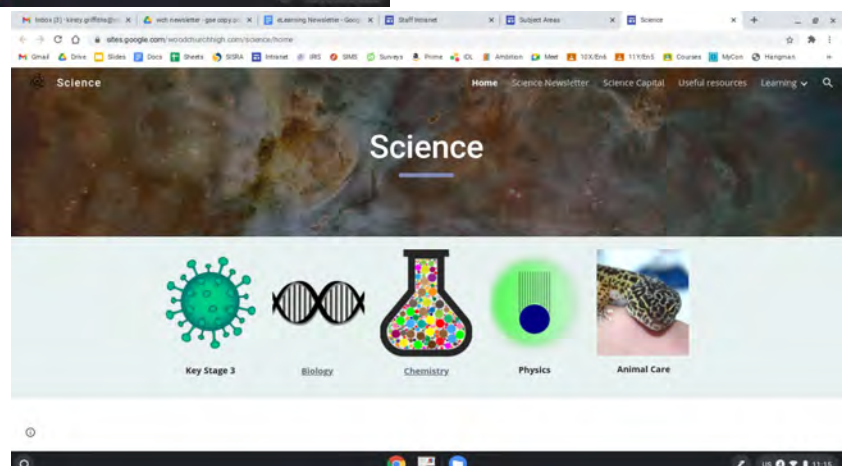
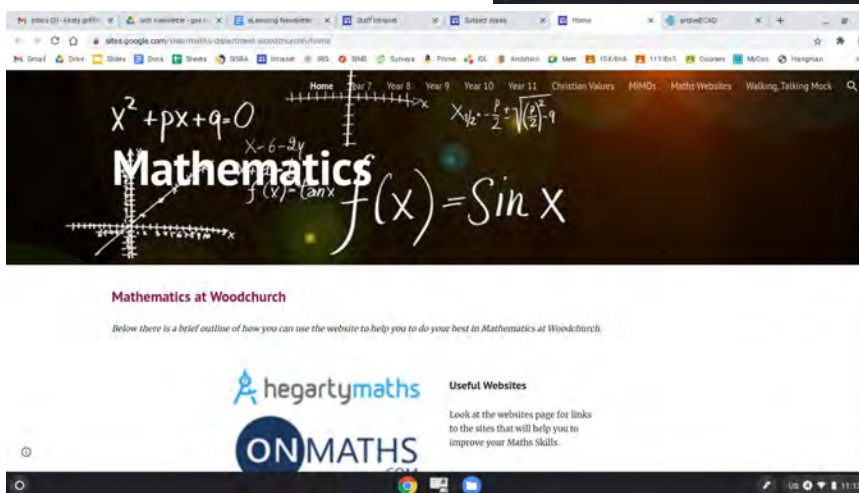
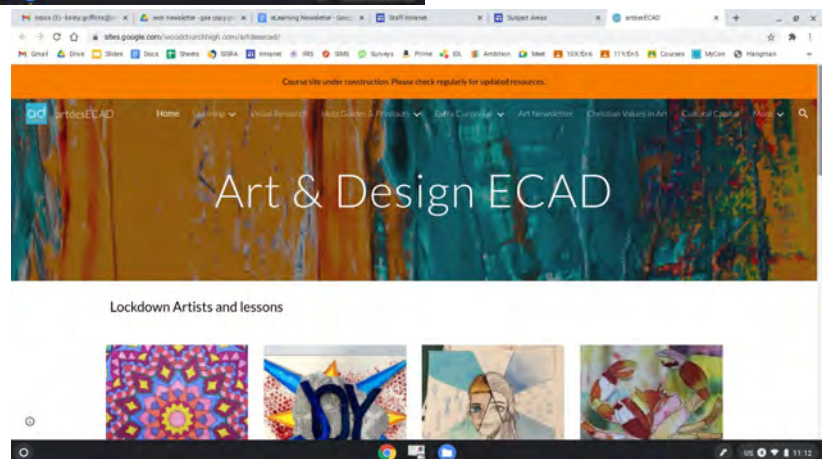
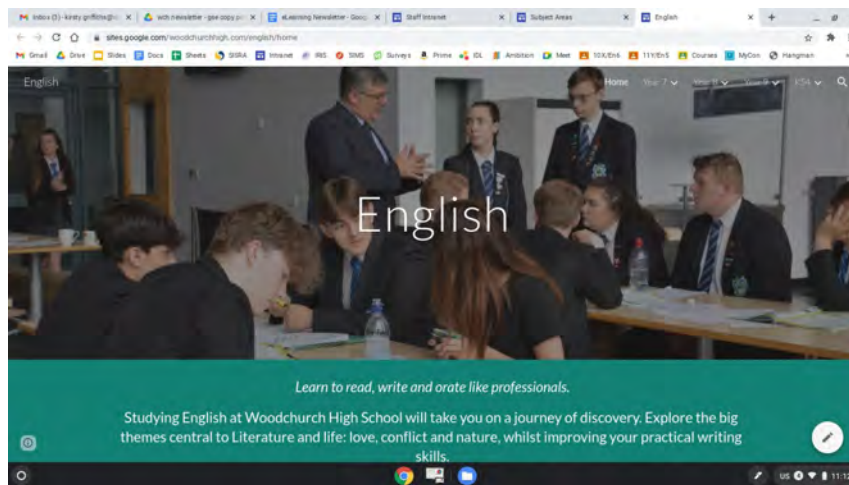
## Pre-recorded Lessons

We have also continued to increase the number of pre-recorded lessons available for every subject, uploading these onto our Subject Area Sites so that we can continue to offer pupils a Virtual Learning Environment which facilitates curriculum delivery and supports pupils to become more independent learners.

We have made great headway with these lessons and, by the end of the year, we hope that these lessons will be available for all pupils, in every subject, according to their stage.

Some of the benefits of pre-recorded lessons include:

- more flexible and convenient access for pupils to target their learning or revision;
- pupils are able to work at their own pace (pausing, researching etc.);



# Diary Dates

Friday 18th December 2020	School closes for Christmas Break 2.00 pm
Monday 21st December 2020 - Friday 1st January 2021	Christmas Break
Monday 4th January 2021	All pupils return to school
Monday 15th February 2021 Friday 19th February 2021	Half Term
Monday 22 February 2021	All pupils return to school
<b>Friday 2nd April 2021</b> <b>Friday 16th April 2021</b>	<b>Easter Break</b>
Monday 19th April 2021	All pupils return to school