

Newsletter - April 2021

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life"

John 8:12

Message from Ms Phillips

We reach the final week of the Spring Term after what has been another turbulent and demanding time for staff, pupils and parents. We were delighted when our pupils were able to fully return to school on 8th March and, as a staff, we have been impressed with the way in which they quickly adapted to face-to-face learning and the daily routines and expectations.

So many of our pupils engaged with the online learning provision, and we thank you for your support in ensuring that your child continued to access their educational provision. Again, we appreciated your emails, thanking staff for their efforts and communication over this period. Learning online has brought so many benefits, and revision tasks and homework activities are now accessible through Google Classrooms.

When we return after Easter, Year 11 will be involved in their subject assessments. During the Summer Term Years 7—10 will also be sitting assessments to inform school and home of the progress that they have made throughout this academic year.

We were greatly encouraged by the excellent attendance and participation in the recent Year 10 Saturday College when pupils studied poetry. We intend to hold more sessions in the coming months.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to a member of staff who joined us five years ago. Mrs Rice has been an outstanding Science teacher, supporting and inspiring many pupils. Mrs Rice is joining the staff at The Joseph Paxton School. We wish her well and thank her for her service.

Happy Easter.

Ms Phillips
Headteacher

Chair of Governors

A message from our Chair of Governors, Mr T Smith:

On behalf of all governors I cannot praise enough the Headteacher, senior leadership team, school chaplain, teachers, teaching assistants, administrators, caretakers, caterers and cleaners, who all play a vital role in educating our children at Woodchurch High School.

In these most difficult of times you continue to inspire our children who may be tired, depressed, anxious, self-conscious, distracted or burdened, and you still do it on a daily basis.

It has been wonderful to see how you managed to stay connected with parents and governors during the three long lockdowns.

Thank you everyone, and enjoy your well-deserved Easter break.

Councillor Tony Smith
Chair of Governors

Chaplaincy

We began this half-term by looking at the Christian Value of wisdom. Wisdom isn't about being clever or knowing lots of facts, it is much more about knowing what's true or right and being able to discern the best things for ourselves and other people. Jesus taught about wisdom using parables (stories with a meaning) – he teaches that a wise person lives generously knowing that wealth, money and possessions are fleeting, here today and gone tomorrow; a wise person lives by building their life around the teachings in the Bible and living in a way that honours God, storing up for themselves treasures in heaven that are eternal. Wisdom comes in many forms; and we have opportunities to make wise or foolish decisions every day.

We have spent the rest of this season of Lent following a series called Uncover John, in which we've explored the disciple John's account of Jesus' life. John uses the miracles and teachings of Jesus to show readers what he has discovered about Jesus: that he is the Son of God, and that He has come to earth to be the Saviour of the World and to bring abundant, fulfilling life to those who trust and follow him. We concluded this series with our Easter Assemblies, which were a wonderful way to end the term.

ECAD

Evie Griffin in 7YW has really challenged herself over the last six weeks and showed real endurance by learning new Textile skills. Evie's mum bought her a sewing machine for Christmas and Evie was really keen to not only learn how to use it but to also challenge herself by making different things. Evie started with a simple pin cushion and then a large cushion for a present. Every time Evie completed the project she would happily show Mr Cartledge and Mrs Jones and ask for a new task to keep on improving her skills. She demonstrated a great sense of pride and achievement. The latest task was to make a 'sock monkey.' I'm sure you will all agree that the result is fantastic and shows great creativity.



Inspired by Evie's efforts and talents Mrs Jones has asked her to help run and support fellow Year Seven pupils in an after school Textiles club. Details will follow shortly.

Easter Assemblies

Congratulations to Year 11 pupils Keira Betonio and Casey Liversage who made their maiden performance in this year's Easter assemblies. On the back of the quality of their BTEC Music coursework they were invited to record 'Make you feel my Love' in the school recording studio. Both performers showed real professionalism, arriving for the recording session fully prepared which is an essential skill for working in the Music Industry. Thank you to both pupils for their service and contribution and to Jessica Ellis and Connor Hoijord for adding the additional vocal harmonies.

Animal Magic!

It is that time of the year in Fine Art GCSE for Year 10 pupils to start fine tuning their final pieces linked to their 'Animal Art' project.



Pupils have developed their images from a series of drawings and photographs of their pets and our farm animals. Below are some examples of the work in progress.

Pupils have been inspired by Cumbrian artist, Sarah Taylor, who developed her splash technique after tripping over her cat in the studio and spilling tea over her work. As we constantly say to our pupils in Art, this reflects our Successful Learning Criteria G7 - mistakes are all part of our learning and this resilience helps us grow!

Watch this space as pupils continue to modify their work and prepare for an exhibition of the pieces later this year.

ECAD

The Year 10 Art and Design group have been working on their Louisa Boyd inspired Sketchbook. The final outcome will be a combination of all Assessment Objectives ranging from researching the Artist, developing their skills, working with mixed media materials like quink, watercolours, inks, cyanotypes, graphic imagery, taking photos and digital manipulation. The outcome will be a concertina style sketchbook. Mrs Simpson has made contact with Louisa Boyd and she was so proud that her work has been used to inspire creative young minds and is looking forward to seeing their finished outcomes.



Rachel Simpson

Hi Louisa, I'm a secondary art teacher based on the Wirral and love your work! I'm currently using you as my artist inspiration for my year 10 art and design students! They are doing some lovely stuff inspired by you 🥰

2 h Like Reply

2 🇬🇧 🇮🇹



Author

Louisa Boyd - Artist

[Rachel Simpson](#) thanks so much for sharing this! I'm delighted to hear that my work has been of some use to your students. I would so love to see some of their pieces when they are ready and if they would be happy for you to share them with me. Please pass on my very best wishes to them. Happy creating people ❤️

1 h Like Reply



ECAD

Exciting developments happening in 3D this term!

Our Year 10 Designer-Makers have been experimenting with their first ever sculptures casting in concrete. They have been inspired by the theme on Labyrinths, exploring the origins of these complex mazes steeped in myth and mystery; whilst informing their ideas by investigating the work of Architect turned Sculptor David Umemoto. The outcomes have been tremendously exciting, with our makers discovering and learning about the successes and opportunities of mould making and casting, as they unravelled their pieces.



Year 7 Makers have been exploring the potential and alchemy of glazing, adding colourful, glossy and fluid effect glazes to their Anders Arhoj inspired ceramic characters!

Well done, to all our budding young Designer-Makers we are so proud of your creativity and progress.

English

Readers are achievers!

The Reader intervention has continued to run successfully this term, embracing the spirit of online learning. We are proud of our pupils who have attended these sessions regularly and continued to show their commitment to reading. The programme continues to support pupils to connect, listen, share their thoughts, feelings and memories provoked by the reading shared experiences, led by Emma.

Everyone experiences the text in their own way, but the literature provides a shared language that can help pupils to understand themselves - and others - better.

Pupils have had the opportunity to read new books that they may not have thought about reading before, and have been encouraged to engage with reading for pleasure. All participating pupils have enjoyed success, but the following pupils deserve individual recognition for their engagement:

Lyla Proctor Zac McCardle Katie Wharton Daniel Thomas

Library Launch

We are really thrilled to be able to announce the launch of our new school library, which will be open to pupils next half term.

Located in the heart of our school building, our new glass bubble is a heavenly haven for book lovers and offers pupils some solitude during busy school days. Stocked with a whole world of exciting stories, pupils can browse our A-Z of fiction and pick out their favourites. We have a plethora of authors, from David Walliams to J.K Rowling or, if pupils prefer the classics, Austen and Dickens. If that's not enough, there's a selection of smaller reads that will take mere minutes to get through.

Our shelves are stacked with an array of poetry, plays and short stories, sections on self-help and character.

For pupils who prefer non-fiction, there's a huge variety of non-fiction helpfully sorted into subjects to support pupils with learning and revision. The fun isn't restricted to our shelves, we have a set of Kindles which offer subscriptions to services including *Audible* and *Kindle Unlimited* so there's an even wider world of books at the finger-tips of pupils! If pupils can't find their favourites, they are welcome to speak to their English teacher, who can arrange for books to be ordered for them to rent and read.

Our new self-check scanner makes it really simple for pupils to check books out and all they need to do is pop them on the trolley when they wish to return them.

We've made it easier than ever to engage with reading and we can't wait to see pupils enjoying, and reaping the benefits of our new provision!



English

Year 7



This half term, Year 7 have continued to explore our topic of Nature and the Environment and have been getting to grips with non-fiction texts. They have explored news articles, letters and documentaries and have delved into discussions surrounding animal rights, the environment and looking after our planet.

Fresh out of their adventures in the wonderful wild world of nonfiction, Year 7 have been exploring their theme of Nature and the Environment through poetry since their return to school. They have discovered famous poets such as William Blake, Ted Hughes and Alfred Lord Tennyson and have made waves in developing their poetry analysis skills. We have developed a brand new Anthology especially for Year 7, and pupils have thrived in analysing these.

Don't forget that The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2021 is now accepting entries, so if you enjoyed your study of poetry this term, why not try your hand at penning your own, in the hope of winning a certificate of success in this prestigious award! There is a link to enter on the homepage of the English site.



Next term, Year 7 will be reading William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet and exploring the themes of Love and Relationships. Over the Easter break, Year 7 would benefit from learning about the Bard himself, such as his other plays and key facts about his life. They would also benefit from watching a version of the play and discussing the characters, themes and events at home.

Year 8

This term, Year 8 have moved onto a new theme, Love and Relationships, and have been discussing the Big Question: Sometimes it's not about who loves you most, it's who loves you best; what is love?

In this programme, Year 8 have been studying family relationships, including parent and child. They have been exploring this through studying 'Much Ado About Nothing' by William Shakespeare. Pupils have enjoyed the play's hilarity, drama and chaos, and have successfully engaged with the extracts in the style of GCSE questions.

During their study of the play, pupils have been considering what familial love is, and how people show this. They have also considered romantic love, deception and reconciliation. We have also discussed the difficulties that come with relationships, and how ups and downs can be an integral part of all of our relationships.

After the Easter break, pupils will be studying the renowned play 'Bloody Brothers'. Those who want to get ahead might want to look into the history of Liverpool during the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. They should also be researching and revising dramatic techniques to support them with reading a new play.

Year 8 will also continue with their poetry studies, in preparation for their trial exams in the Summer term.

English

Year 9

This half-term, Year 9 have continued their study of Robert Swindell's 'Stone Cold'. Year 9 have tackled complex societal issues, such as homelessness and neglect, whilst also honing their extract writing skills.

Year 9 have focused on the importance of a dual narrative, analysing the plot from the perspective of our two main characters; the down-trodden Link, and the mysterious Shelter.



Through their study of 'Stone Cold', Y9 have delved deeper into our Christian Values, in particular compassion and endurance. Year 9 have used the analytical skills fostered before Christmas (in their study of 'Of Mice and Men') to complete extract analysis and 'exploding essays'.

As their knowledge of the novel and its context grows, Year 9 will be learning to create an 'exploding essay', which will allow them to focus on key extracts from the novel, whilst also integrating their knowledge from the entirety of 'Stone Cold'. This style of essay writing will emulate their GCSE texts, 'A Christmas Carol' and 'An Inspector Calls' which pupils will begin studying in Year 10.

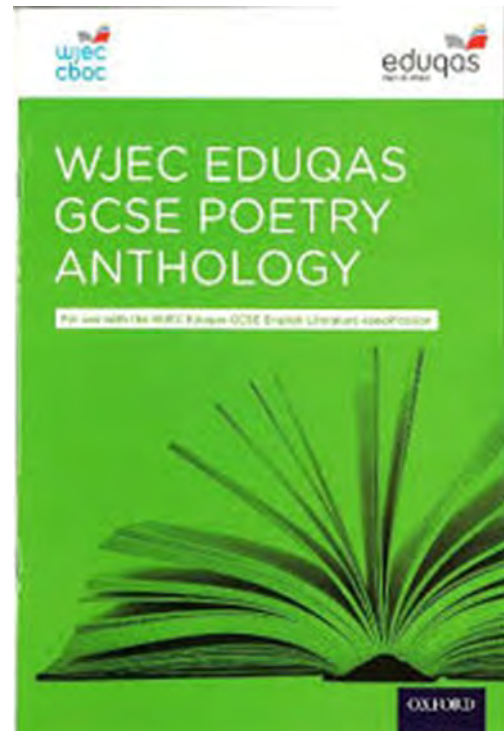
Year 9's study of 'Stone Cold' has given them a new appreciation for some of society's down-trodden and vulnerable, and will no doubt support them in their study of 'The Crucible' next term!

Year 9 should also now be beginning to explore a variety of new writing techniques, such as dual narrative, and should be solidifying their understanding of both first and third person narration.

English

Year 10

This term since being back in school, Year 10 have been continuing their studies which form part of their literature component one; the Eduqas Poetry Anthology. The students had the opportunity over lockdown to begin exploring the vast collection of exciting poetry within the anthology, ranging from the era of Romanticism in the 18th and 19th centuries with poems such as 'London' by William Blake and 'The Prelude' by William Wordsworth along with war and conflict poetry from Wilfred Owen with 'Dulce Et Decorum Est' to Rupert Brooke's 'The Soldier'. Students have been learning a multiplicity of themes in the anthology and this half-term, the students have started post-war poetry which includes poems such as 'Valentine' by Carol Ann Duffy and 'Cozy Apologia' by Rita Dove. While navigating their way through the anthology, students have produced some excellent analysis of the poems and have started to explore how these poems can be compared through their various themes, language and structure in preparation for their GCSE assessments. They have also learnt the contextual knowledge of the poems and the history of the poetic eras, along with becoming experts at analysis!



Year 10 have also kept their studies of Macbeth ongoing, with Macbeth Mondays underway each week. Now that they have completed the play, students have been able to focus on the complexity of the characters and the various themes of conflict, love, ambition and betrayal in the play in greater depth in preparation for their GCSE examinations next summer.

Year 10 have returned to school with a fantastic attitude to their learning and anthologies filled with annotations to further develop and support their learning. Over the last few weeks, the students have produced some excellent work and in-class discussion about the various poems in the anthology and have been engaging well with the complex and diverse nature of them. Well done, Year 10!

<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/ks4/english-literature/poetry-anthology?authuser=0>

Alternatively, please find the site this way: WHS home page > Pupil intranet > Subject Areas > English > KS4

English

Year 11

Since returning to school, Year 11 have been focused on their English Centre Assessed Examinations, particularly their Literature papers. Starting with Unseen Poetry and ending with An Inspector Calls, Year 11 have been using their expert knowledge of the texts to analyse and explain the presentation of specific characters in their essay responses. Year 11 have shown a great commitment to their revision and classwork, and are eager to prove what they have learnt in English since starting at Woodchurch High School nearly 5 years ago.



Following the Easter break, Year 11 will be undertaking their GCSE Language Component 1 and 2 CAEs. Therefore, it is essential that pupils engage fully in the revision materials and resources provided by the English Department to effectively prepare. Pupils can also access revision resources online using the following links to BBC Bitesize and Eduqas where they will find a range of resources to help prepare for the exams.

BBC Bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpxh82p>

Eduqas: <https://resources.eduqas.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=11&lvlId=2>

Year 11 pupils should also pay close attention to the writing tasks for each component, the titles of which will be communicated to pupils in advance of the exams to allow them to prepare properly. Flashcards will be provided for pupils to plan their responses and write plans to be taken into the exam; pupils should take full advantage of this opportunity to allow them to demonstrate their learning in English throughout their education.

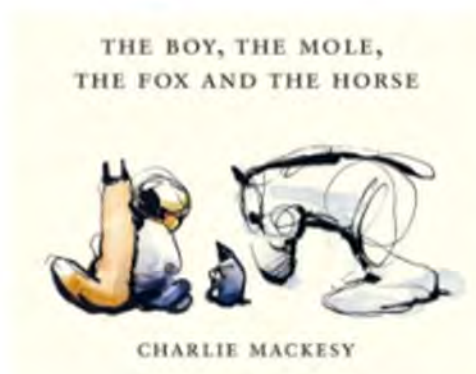
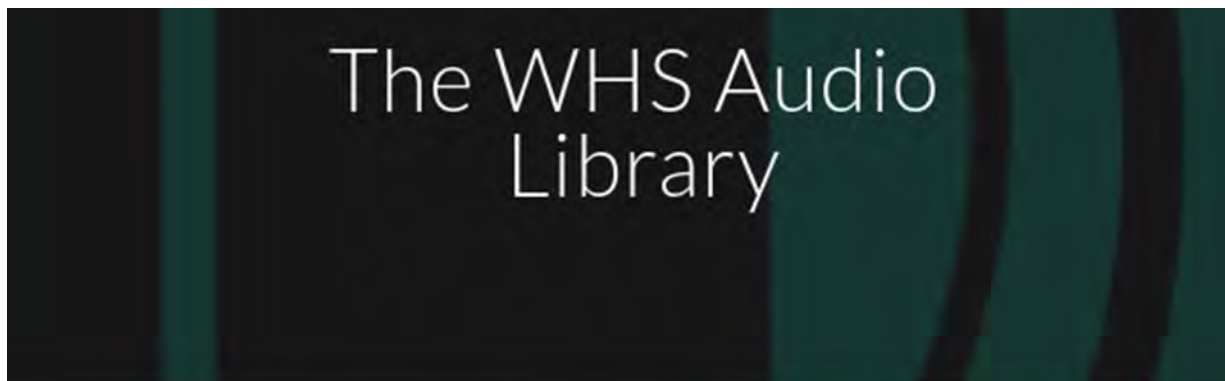
The English Department would like to congratulate Year 11 on their hard work so far and wish them happy studying in advance of their Language CAEs!

English

WHS Audio Library

Remember that the English Site is now home to our fantastic WHS Audio Library! Listen to books and short stories read to you by your favourite teachers. We figured you get enough of being read to by your English teachers, so teachers from other subjects have volunteered to create this fantastic resource to support your reading. Remember that reading will support you across the whole curriculum!

<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/whs-audio-library>



The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse.

Enter the world of four unlikely friends, discover their story and their most important life lessons. How would attribute our Christian Values to their conversations?

Read by Ms Phillips

Are you looking for opportunities to show off your creative writing skills outside of school? Enter the competitions below:

Young Wild Writer Competition 2021



The Orwell Youth Prize 2021



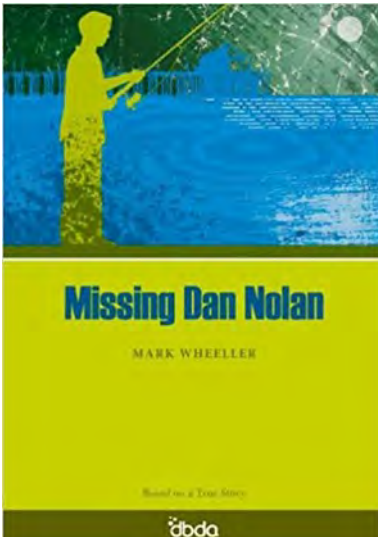
The Foyle Young Poet of the Year Award 2021



Drama

Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have continued with their learning on Documentary Drama! Upon their return to school Year 7 began exploring these ideas practically, in performance. We've looked at some of the most famous natural disasters including Pompeii and the Boxing Day Tsunami and pupils have really relished the opportunity to explore different skills in bringing these events to life in their performances.



Year 8

This half-term Year 8 have continued learning all about Mark Wheeler's Verbatim play, *Missing Dan Nolan*. The story is based on a real-life event from 2002 when fourteen-year-old Daniel Nolan went missing following a fishing trip with his friends. Pupils continue to be fascinated learning all about Dan's story and trying to figure out exactly what happened to him! Since returning to school pupils have been bringing this script to life in performance and ensuring that each character is communicated clearly to their audiences. We've been really impressed with the way in which Year 8 have stepped up to the challenge of performing a very tough script! Well Done, Year 8!

Year 9

Year 9 have been continuing to explore Mark Wheeler's Verbatim play, *Game Over*, this half-term. They've been shocked by the horrors of Breck Bednar's experience and feel appalled by Lewis Daynes' behaviour! The play centres on how eighteen year old Lewis Daynes manipulated fourteen year old Breck via an online gaming platform. It follows the true story, which happened in 2014, and sadly sees the death of Breck at the hands of Lewis. Pupils have responded with maturity when bringing this script to life! Well Done, Year 9!

Drama

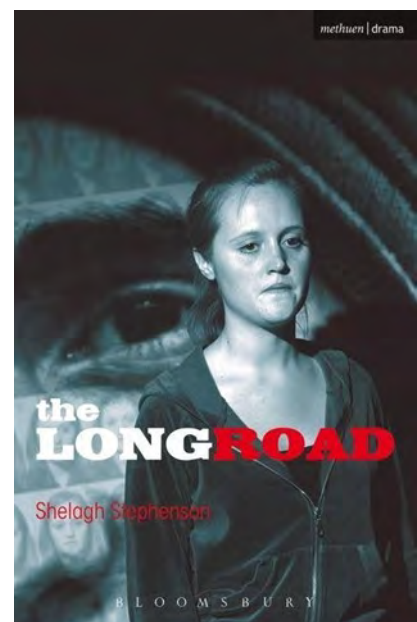
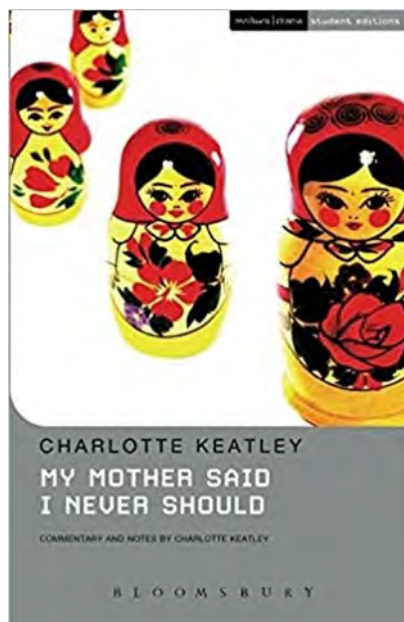
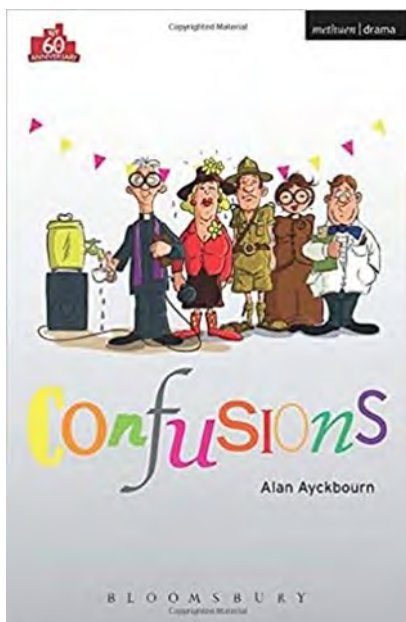
Year 10

Year 10 have continued to develop their knowledge of Dennis Kelly's *DNA* this half-term and our Associate Teachers, Miss Rimmer and Mr Adams continue to be incredibly impressed with their knowledge! Pupils have been working constantly to develop their understanding of key questions in readiness for their Component 3 exam at the end of this half-term! We can't wait to see how they get on! Good Luck, Year 10!



Year 11

Year 11 GCSE pupils have been working really hard to bring to life their extract performances this half-term. Pupils are exploring a range of plays in order to develop their performance skills in readiness for their examination on March 27th. Pupils have responded really well and have been completely committed to learning their lines and developing their characters. We're really looking forward to watching their performances at the end of this term!



Humanities



We have a new Geography club open to all key stage 3 that runs Monday after school and via the google classroom page. So far they have made erupting volcanoes, building earthquake proof buildings and will be making VR headsets.

All homework tasks are also set on google classroom so make sure you log in to complete your set tasks.

Year 7 have been looking at Africa and challenging misconceptions about the continent. We are currently looking at the difference between the rich and poor in Kenya.

Year 8 are studying China, they have looked at the dominance of China in terms of global trade and will go to look at human rights.

Year 9 have really enjoyed the unit on Russia, especially the in-depth look at the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 and its far reaching, long lasting consequences. This has allowed pupils to display our Christian Values values of empathy, integrity and hope.

Year 10 have just finished looking at the growth of India, and they have worked hard and performed well in the end of unit test. with a special mention to the following pupils:

Phoebe O' Sullivan

Courtney McNulty

Harry Maher

Nathan Roper

The Year 11 Geography centre based assessment will take place on the 29th April (paper 1) and 6th May (paper 2). Pupils will revise in class but should use the provided list to focus on independent revision at home.

Humanities

Religious Studies

This half term the RS Subject Area had their assessment for the REQM award. This is the Religious Education Quality Mark and lots of hard work and preparation went into getting ready for the assessment. Pupils had their say about RS via pupil voice surveys which were submitted to the assessor, along with examples of their work, our learning programmes and other key documentation. We were absolutely delighted to have been awarded the Gold level of the award, the highest level of the award, with some excellent feedback from our assessor. We feel this award recognises not only the hard work and dedication of our RS teachers but also the excellent work and achievements of our pupils. Well done everybody!



In March, Mrs Wilton organised an fantastic experience for some of our Year 9 pupils, a live webinar with a Holocaust survivor through the Holocaust Education Trust and Liverpool Hope University. Pupils were able to listen to the remarkable story of Mr Harry Kessler who survived the Holocaust due to the random acts of kindness of his parents and strangers which eventually led him to safety in the UK. Our pupils were excellent, listening to Mr Kessler with fascination and admiration and asked some very thought-provoking and meaningful questions. Well done Year 9 and thank you Mrs Wilton for organising.

This half term Year 7 and 8 have been completing their study of St Mark's Gospel, really building on their skills of textual analysis and evaluation. We have been impressed with the endurance our pupils have shown while studying this learning programme and with the knowledge they have gained about St Mark and the life and teachings of Jesus.

Year 9 have been completing their Evil and Suffering Learning Programme and have really enjoyed looking at some very typical issues such as the death penalty, punishment and forgiveness. They have shown a real level of maturity which is really promising as they prepare to study GCSE RS next academic year.

Our Year 10 pupils have really enjoyed beginning their study of Judaism. Next half term they will all be involved in a webinar with a member of the Jewish community. This is an excellent opportunity for them to find out more about the everyday life of Jewish people and the role of the Synagogue, both in terms of worship and supporting the local community.



Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 11 Pupils are working hard to prepare for their exams after the Easter break. For Religious Studies, pupils will sit two papers, comprising of the three GCSE Learning Programmes they have studied since Year 9:

Paper 1 Wednesday 5th May - Philosophy and Ethical Issues in the Modern World (Relationships, Life and Death, Good and Evil and Human Rights) - 2 Hours

Paper 2 Friday 7th May - Christianity and Judaism - 1 hour. For this paper, pupils should focus their revision specifically on: Christianity: Key words, Christmas, Jesus' Crucifixion, Pilgrimage and other forms of worship Judaism: Key words, Shabbat, The Messiah, Mitzvot and Pikuach Nefesh.

We wish our Year 11s every success with these exams and, as always, all the RS teachers are here to support pupils with revision and the preparation for these important exams.

Humanities

Our Historians have done exceptionally well in adjusting back to face-to-face learning, and we've been covering some really exciting topics.

Our **Year 7s** are tackling a thorny question - were medieval kings as powerful as they wanted to be? They will focus on the power of the Church and the grisly murder of Thomas Becket in Canterbury Cathedral, King John and the Magna Carta, and will evaluate the extent of the destruction caused by the Black Death. Students can find out more about this period here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfphvcw>

Year 8 are continuing to investigate 17th century events in England. They have evaluated whether Oliver Cromwell was a hero or a villain, and will study his legacy - did life in England improve after the execution of Charles I? It's been great to see how our Year 8s' literacy is improving as they tackle some extended reading and writing tasks. Students can extend their knowledge of Cromwell here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z8vdmp3/revision/1>

Year 9 have been working towards an assessment about Hitler's rise to power - how could people have voted for such a man? Next they will be learning about his rule in Germany, with a particular focus on his use of terror to ensure obedience. This will culminate in a study of the Holocaust. Year 9s can find out more here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zfnp34j/resources/1>

Year 10 have worked really hard to recap the learning completed over lockdown. We are preparing for an assessment on our Germany paper in the Summer term - the current focus is life under Hitler. Year 10 are becoming more confident with their exam technique and are responding to feedback really well. Students that want to stretch themselves can revisit lockdown lessons and this great bank of resources from the National Oak Academy - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/units/weimar-and-nazi-germany-1919-1939-6b4e>

Humanities

Year 11 are studying hard, preparing for their centre assessments - they have two coming up:

Paper 1 Thursday 1st April - USA - 45 minutes

We will cover two Key Questions:

- Civil Rights, 1941-1970
- Political Change, 1960-2000

Paper 2 Thursday 6th May - Germany - 45 minutes

We will cover three Key Questions:

- Impact of the First World War
- Recovery of Weimar
- End of the Weimar Republic

Pupils have all been given a hard copy of revision guides to help them to prepare, and I would ask that you encourage them to use it to create revision resources such as concept maps, flash cards, mnemonics or condensed notes. They must also practice their exam technique - they have been given guidance for this too.

Students also have access to the relevant pages of the textbook via Google Classroom, and can access further revision materials for the Germany paper at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zxvfnbk>.

We wish you every success, Year 11!

Maths

March saw the welcome return of the whole school and we were able to celebrate the success of Year 9 and Year 10 in their UKMT Challenge which had been completed during lockdown.

A number of students achieved bronze certificates from the UKMT Trust and were rewarded with the newly launched Mathematics lapel pins. An amazing recognition of the achievement from our talented students.



We hope that the Junior Mathematics Challenge in April will see the success of Years 9 and 10 repeated at Year 7 and 8.

Year 7 Puzzle Club

The Year 7 Puzzle Club has returned more popular than ever, with high numbers attending the sessions on Friday lunchtime.

Hegarty Maths

Students have firmly embedded Hegarty Maths into their learning schedules and in Year 10, sets 1 and 2 have started their Flipped Learning, taking advantage of the habits developed during the lockdown of Spring Term 1.

Please let us know if more Hegarty homework books are required. They can be collected either from the staff base or from the class teacher.

Mathematics Website

There are many resources available for students to use in supporting their independent learning on our website.

Equipment

Casio calculators are available to purchase from the maths base priced at £8. They represent good value for a calculator that will see most students through to GCSE and A'levels.

MFL

The MFL department would like to say a big thank you to pupils studying French and Spanish. Pupils have shown outstanding endurance and thankfulness this half term on their return to school. ¡Gracias! Merci!

Year 11 Continuous Assessment

Year 11 pupils continue to show great commitment to their learning and are currently completing exam-style activities towards their continuous assessment.

To support their progress, pupils can access a range of key grammar and topic resources via our MFL Google Site.

One way Year 11 can challenge themselves at home would be by continuing to revise the 'Hub Phrases', 'Booster Verbs' and the key tenses. Revision materials such as 'Knowledge Organisers' are also available on the MFL Google Site. Pupils are currently being provided with condensed knowledge organisers for each GCSE 'Theme' and are encouraged to use these to support their revision.



Pupils can also use online websites such as DuoLingo, Memrise and Quizlet to revise vocabulary. Practice exam questions are also available on BBC Bitesize which has been updated, and any other support needed pupils should ask their MFL teacher. Revision guides are still available to order from the MFL staff base.

Google Classroom: Homework



The MFL department are now using Google Classroom as the main hub for setting homeworks. While vocabulary and homework materials will be uploaded to Classroom, students should still continue to bring their vocabulary books to lessons as they will still need these for certain resources.

Year 9 Options

The MFL department would like to congratulate Year 9 on choosing their options this term! If you would like to find out more about what you can look forward to when taking an MFL at GCSE, we would ask you to visit the 'Events' section of the school's website and click on the 'Year 9 Options Presentations' link. Here the MFL department is proud to present a short video presentation which gives an insight into the GCSE MFL curriculum and what pupils on the Ebacc pathway have to look forward to next year. This is available for parents, carers and pupils alike to view at any point to remind pupils of the opportunities available to them next year as students of MFL and of the many benefits of learning a foreign language.

Year 9
Options
Presentations



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 including knowledge organisers and grammar activities.
- 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.

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 speak to a member of the MFL team.

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!

- Download the free (and simple to use) language learning app **Duolingo**.
- **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.
- **Quizlet.com** - search for **mflwoodchurch**. Scroll down the list of activities to find topic areas to revise. The 'gravity' game is particularly addictive.
- **Teachvid.com** - sign up for a free account watch the language videos and try some of the interactive activities.
- **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**).
- '**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.
- '**Comme une Française**' channel on YouTube – practise pronunciation, learn phrases on a wide range of topics and improve your knowledge of French culture.
- '**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.
- **1 jour 1 actu.com** – current affairs website aimed at young, native speakers of French.
- **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'.



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

Sienna Atherton
Ellie Davies
Jayden Evans
Jaiden Holmes
Thomas Jones
Jack Keenan
Joshua Loyns
Lily-Mae Martin
Lily Porschke
Evie Smith

Year 10

Lexie Caulfield
Alfie Chesters
Kyle Flynn
Luca Ford
Phoebe O'Sullivan
Ben Stanton
Caitlin Taylor
William Wright

Year 8

Samantha Bennett
Chloe Brammall
Dean Branigan
Ty Chapman
Lauren Dodd
Amelia Jones
Jonathan McAdams
Chloe McGrory
Megan O'Connell
Finley Rutter

Year 11

Owen Clinton
Jessica Ellis
Max Farrell
Olivia Forrester
Matthew McDonald
Mitchell McGinn
James Roberts
Liberty Woods

Year 9

Mia Bell
Freya Earl
Isabella Griffiths
Sarah Jones
Taylor Jones
Alex Mairid-Curruns
Amy McDavid
Savannah Povall
Daniel Pritchard
Milissa Simon



PE

Past Pupil Success

Congratulations to James Williams who is a past pupil of Woodchurch High School and was selected as part of the British 400m and 4x400m squad at the European Indoor Championships in Torun, Poland. James qualified for the finals in the 400m and the relay team won a Bronze medal. James is an excellent sporting role model to our pupils for what can be achieved through hard work and commitment to sport.



Present Pupils' Success

Congratulations also go to **Ellis Kinsey** for being selected for the Wirral squad in Football and to **Ben Whelan** who has recently achieved his Black Belt grading in Karate.

Fit for Life

The PE Department is promoting 'Fit for Life' to encourage pupils to engage in sport and exercise both inside and outside of school. Each year group has a night for their extra-curricular activities which offers a fitness based option such as Body Attack fitness classes or using the gym; a recreational option with their friends like badminton or table tennis and then the competitive sports options like netball, basketball and football.

There is also a 'WoodchuchPE' group on the exercise app Strava, to encourage pupils to join and log runs or cycles outside of school and to connect with friends virtually through exercises.

The sole aim is to allow pupils to see that by engaging in sport and exercise, it will make a positive impact on their physical health, but also their emotional wellbeing such as improved confidence and self esteem and finally their social health by making new friendships.



All pupils are welcome and clubs run from 3:15 to 4:30pm.

Science

Future Food Challenge – Farm Urban STEM Challenge

Year 9 pupils have been lucky enough to be working alongside Farm Urban to learn all about Aquaponics and how to solve problems related to food shortages in the future. All Year 9 pupils have participated in the Future Food Festival, completing

online sessions all about fixing the Broken Food System and Improving Health.

12 pupils are now involved in learning more about setting up a business and the science behind aquaponics, working on the Future Food project to design, develop and make their own produce pod and business model.

Pupils are currently developing their business around environmentally friendly ways of producing fresh, sustainable food, while reducing food miles and being able to access fresh salad, vegetables and herbs all year around without relying on the use of supermarkets.



Our two new fish will be joining us after the Spring Break and they will be 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! We hope to design a produce pod that could be used within our school canteen so everyone can access the food that we produce.

Eco



Fairtrade Fortnight Success

During the enforced closure, the Year 9 Eco Committee continued to meet remotely and planned a highly successful programme for Fair Trade Fortnight to raise awareness inequalities in trading across the world & to raise money for the Fairtrade Foundation, who support workers in developing Countries and campaign for a fair income for their work. We ran a sell out Fairtrade Tuckshop and raised £40.00. A highly successful Fair Trade Cupcake Competition offered the chance for our pupils to showcase their independent baking and decorating skills!



Upon returning to School full time, the Year 9 Eco Committee have been completing audits with the prospect of achieving the Fair Aware Award, our first step into becoming a Fair Trade School in the future! As part of our assessment, Miss Hughes (Eco Coordinator) invited members of the Year 7 Eco Committee to participate in a 'tough choices' challenge in which they performed in teams and managed their essential living expenses under substandard and discriminating wages. The aims of this activity were to raise awareness of inequalities occurring across our World.



Bike To School Week

Bike to School Week is a week long/termly activity that takes place across the UK to showcase the benefits of cycling to School.

Our first BTSW of the year took place from Monday 22nd - Friday 26th March. There were prizes given every day to a member of each year and it was delightful to hear that so many pupils taking to cycling to School for the first time to support this campaign!

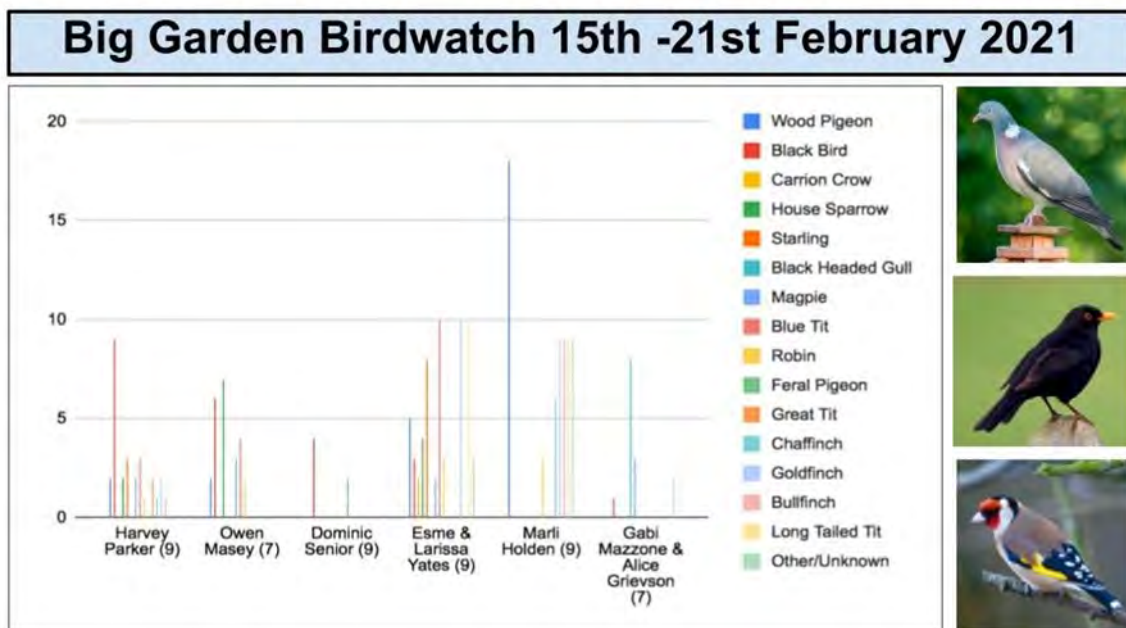
"I think cycling to school is great, it makes me feel refreshed when I ride to school. It makes me feel more alert and ready for the day, I cycle to school every day anyway because it makes me feel more energetic." Statement from Year 9 Pupil.



Eco

Since 1979, numbers of many species have been declining. The Big Garden Bird-watch helps the RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) to find out which species are struggling, identify why and how they can be protected. This family activity is also recommended for boosting wellbeing.

Some of our pupils participated in the Garden Bird Watch in their own gardens! Their collection of data will raise awareness of bird species that are identified as endangered and we will continue to address how we can help them.



Reaseheath Project

This term pupils have returned to Westlake as part of their Reaseheath land based studies programme. Their enthusiasm in their learning has been demonstrated in the outcomes of what they have produced. Emma, Fletcher and Sam were shown the skill of how to use willow to create an obelisk. After taking several attempts and their full strength to weave the willow between the stakes the obelisks are now ready to be used for their sweet peas which were prepared by sandpapering the sweet pea seeds and planted during their horticulture studies.

To encourage wildlife pupils have also been busy building bird feeders using logs, a mixture of lard and bird seed which became a very sticky lesson!

The changes in the spring season enabled pupils to continue and expand their knowledge with land based activities such as revisiting the study of tree recognition using leaves, blossom and bark and photographs have been taken to show the changes surrounding the environment in which we are working in, after a few weeks photographs will be taken again to compare the changes to the landscape. Pupils have also looked at new life in the ponds such as frogspawn and pond newts.

Again the skills and knowledge learned will be transferred to inform younger pupils involved on our school farm.





Citizenship



Archbishop of York Award

Our current Year 8 cohort have begun their Archbishop of York Young Leaders Award. They have been set their first personal challenge along with the School Challenge of completing 'random acts of kindness' which is going incredibly well and we would like to congratulate the pupils on embracing this challenge and showing compassion towards people in our community.



As part of the Form challenge, we will be organising a sponsored walk. Each Form group will complete the challenge separately on different dates during the first half term in the summer.

All money raised from the Year 8 challenges will go to our nominated school charities for this year:

- Interact (Charity Team) Choice – Dementia Together Wirral
- St Mary's Choice – A Rosha
- Birkenhead Rotary Choice - The Wirral Fund For Children With Special Needs
- Mayor's Choice – Open Door Centre

Charity Update

At Woodchurch High school we encourage our pupils to serve through many different opportunities.

One of these opportunities include the chance to participate in a form charity event.

The charity events this year have been taking place within year group bubbles and have been received well by pupils who have either taken on leadership roles within the events or have been compassionate and generous enough to give money towards our nominated school charities.

Form groups in each year group including YE, YN, YS and YV have all completed their events which have included; beat the keeper, guess how many sweets in a jar, cake bake sale and a raffle to name a few. YW and YZ forms will be completing their charity ideas in the Summer Term. It will then be the turn of the X band to raise as much money for our chosen charities.

I would like to thank all the pupils who have been involved or given generously to these really important causes.

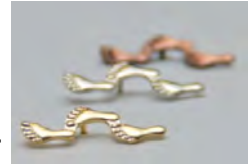


Citizenship



Year 7 My Character Awards

It has been another wonderful term in respect of Character development for our Year 7 cohort. I have been particularly pleased with how our pupils have demonstrated the Christian Values both in school and at home. Parents and carers have been emailing their experiences of how their child/ward have been letting their light shine by displaying Christian Values such as Integrity, Compassion, Endurance and Thankfulness. This has led to nearly 400 My Character nominations and clearly shows how our pupils have really captured our vision, culture and ethos.



Mr Hulse (Year 7 Pupil Progress Leader) is delighted with how the year group has bought into his vision, 'Shine Bright', for the academic year and will be celebrating pupils Character achievements in assembly by handing out My Character Certificates and badges.

Pupils will still have the opportunity to demonstrate our Christian Values along with being nominated for the awards for the rest of the academic year; followed up with an end of year My Character Awards ceremony.



Well done Year 7 and keep up the excellent work.

Farm News

Woodchurch High School Farm has received over £21,000 of the Metro Mayor, Steve Rotherham's and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Community Environment Fund. The funding will be used to launch the following two environmental projects: **The Young Farmers Experience** and **The Good Life Happy Earth Project**.



METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

The Young Farmers Experience will be aimed at opening the WHS Farm to primary schools around the Liverpool City Region so that children can learn about environmental issues and take part in activities such as an Eco Safari and Eco workshops including Farm to Fork and Grow 4 Life planting experience. The visits will culminate in an Eco Poster Competition based on their learning on the school farm.

The Good Life Happy Earth Project is aimed at the wider community. We will be offering workshops on how to 'Grow your Own' from vegetables in a large raised bed to a windowsill allotment. The aim is to promote awareness of environmental issues and how to reduce our carbon footprint. We will also be using everyday items to make a community 'Pick and Mix' area outside the farm entrance. This area will have vegetables growing to help yourself on the way past the farm. We will have a seed and plant share area, where the farm and community can deposit spare seeds and plants for all to share for free. Many more activities, events and opportunities are planned and will be announced soon.

If interested in attending a Good Life Happy Earth workshop or if you would like to get involved in some way in promoting the project please email:
farmteam@woodchurchhigh.com

Other news on the farm is that we have five North Ronaldsay Ewes due to lamb from the 22nd April. Also, Avian Bird Flu national restrictions are being lifted on the 1st April. This means our ducks and hens can be allowed outdoors to enjoy the Easter sunshine.

We wish you a very Happy Easter from the WHS Farm
#GreenLCR #LCRCA @lpoolcityregion



Diary Dates

Friday 2nd April 2021
Friday 16th April 2021

Easter Break

Monday 19th April 2021

All pupils return to school

Monday 31st May 2021
Friday 4th June 2021

May Half Term

Monday 7th June 2021

All pupils return to school

Friday 16th July 2021

School Closes for Summer

Wednesday 1st September 2021
(Staff Development Day)

2021/22 Academic Year Starts

Tuesday 2nd September 2021

All pupils return to school