

## Newsletter - October 2021

"The Lord loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of his unfailing love."

***Psalm 33:5***

### **Message from Ms Phillips**

The last seven weeks have gone so quickly with our pupils enjoying lessons and many other experiences offered to them throughout the school day. Year 11 are taking full advantage of period 6 and we are delighted with the commitment shown and the aspirations of the year group. Thank you to our parents/carers for all their support and we trust you have a restful half term.

### **Open Evening**

We were excited to welcome over 2,500 people to our Autumn Open Evening on 4<sup>th</sup> October. As ever, our pupils were outstanding ambassadors as they met with parents and children, inviting them to join in the activities within the Curriculum Areas. The Prefect Team were highly commended for the way in which they conducted the guided tours and provided families with information about life at Woodchurch High School. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive:

*"We were made comfortable in a new environment, very friendly approach from staff and pupils."*

*"The evening was well organised. I expected it to be good but this visit exceeded by expectations."*

*"Staff and pupil engagement was excellent."*

*"Our tour guide was absolutely fantastic."*



Again this year, we have offered bespoke tours after school. These enable families to ask questions of the Senior Leadership Team and explore specific areas of the curriculum and our provision.

## Curriculum Evenings

Over a period of four weeks Year 7 parents/carers were provided with the opportunity to attend Curriculum Evenings, sampling the subjects offered to their children. During the evenings parents/carers were shown how their children experience learning, together with the expectations for them to continue their studies at home through Google Sites.

The evenings were well attended and the evaluation feedback highlighted how useful parents/carers found the events.



Our SEND Team also met with parents/carers to discuss numeracy and literacy strategies, and how to support their children with home learning.

## Year 7

Year 7 have settled well into the secondary environment and are confidently navigating the school and adapting to their new curriculum. They are ably cared for by the Pastoral Team, Mrs Smith and Mr Crowe, together with their Form Tutors. Already many of the Year 7 pupils have received Headteacher's Awards for excellent effort with their work or else for showing our Christian Values.



We were pleased with the attendance at the Year 7 parents/carers' Form Tutor Evening which was an opportunity to discuss the children's progress and participation this half term. Parents/carers were provided with an online transition booklet full of information and photographs of activities and achievements to date.

## Art Display—St Catherine's Hospital

We have had some lovely feedback from a member of the public regarding our Art display at St Catherine's Hospital:

*Having just entered the hospital for outpatient check up, I want to thank you for the wonderful art displays by your students. Not only did they distract me from the forthcoming experience, they were works of such heartwarming talent and skill I spent more time studying them afterwards when normally I'd make a quicksmart departure!*

*Well done Woodchurch!*

*Sincerely,  
H.Jones.*

If you do need to be at St Catherine's, make sure you see the displays, which have been thoughtfully created by our pupils; they provide both patients and staff with some welcome comfort.

## Woodchurch High School Subject Site Launch

What if every bit of learning was *a brick in your learning wall*?

What if you were to miss the *most important learning bricks* and your wall became unstable?

What if we, at Woodchurch, could build an online platform, where you can go to revisit all of the *most important bricks* from Year 7 to Year 11 in every subject?

After a year of hard work to build an online learning platform like no other, we are thrilled to have finally been able to launch our Subject Sites with pupils - and these were the questions posed.

Our Subject Sites are a place pupils can go to for high quality learning material, delivered by Woodchurch High School teachers, in line with Woodchurch High School's curriculum. Each site covers the most important aspects of learning in each subject and is accompanied by a learning checklist, and a short corresponding video lesson. They are an incredible resource for our pupils and will be a powerful step forward for us to encourage more pupils to work independently at home.

All pupils attended the hall in year communities to hear of the incredible potential waiting to be unlocked and were given a tour of the Sites by Subject Leaders.

Pupils will be asked to engage with these in class in the final week of term and will be set a short, targeted homework task to complete over the half term break.

We are looking forward to launching these sites with parents in future whole school events.





# Careers

On Wednesday the 20th of October, we hosted our annual Careers Fair here at Woodchurch. The evening was filled with pupils of all years, along with their parents and carers, engaging with a vast variety of different local Post 16 Providers, Employers, Colleges and Universities. Many of our visitors expressed how proactive our pupils were when speaking with them, and how well they demonstrated our Christian Value of thankfulness as they received valuable information regarding their post 16 options.

Feedback from pupils was also extremely positive, with many feeling well informed for the future. Additionally, we would also strongly recommend pupils set up online accounts with KUDOS and START, which school has funded access for all pupils in each year group. Lastly, there are extensive resources in the Careers Section on the school Gsite, the link for this can be found on the pupil intranet section of the school website. Thank you to all those who attended.



# Chaplaincy

In Collective Worship this half term we have talked about the first two of our school's Christian Values. In September we thought about Humility, learning from the example Jesus gave when he washed the disciples' feet at the Last Supper. We learned that humility recognises that there is no task beneath us, that humility requires getting your focus off your rights and your needs and onto others' needs, and that humility has a big impact!

In October we thought about Justice – we saw how Jesus showed God's justice to the woman caught in adultery and brought to the temple. God's justice embraces both legal and social justice. Jesus does not condemn the woman and he doesn't condone her sin but he gives her a fresh start and calls her to live right. It's what Jesus offers to all of us - a fresh start and a new life thanks to the love and justice of the cross.

We have also been reminded this term of our link with our partner school in the Solomon Islands, St Nicholas School in Melanesia. We have heard more about the Solomon Islands, the people and the culture, and about the school. We pray for the school and continue to think about how we can develop our partnership.

At the start of the term we reminded ourselves of the school Say One for Me box, which is available for pupils and staff to post prayer request cards for our Chaplaincy Team to pray for. This has run successfully in school for many years, and we want to extend the offer to you. If you would like our Chaplaincy Team to pray for you, or those you care about, for any reason then send them an email to [chaplaincy@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:chaplaincy@woodchurchhigh.com) and they will Say One for You. These prayer requests are viewed and prayed for by the Chaplaincy Team in school and by a small group from the St Mary's Parish Church in Upton.

# ECAD

## Rivers of the World

During the Summer Term, Art Graphic pupils were involved in a workshop, working with a company called Metal and the artist Adam Sadiq, creating digital postcards. The theme was Rivers of the World. Our pupils looked at the River Mersey, studied the history of the port and developed their own visual representation of its potential for the future. These digital postcards were on display September in the atrium outside the Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool.



We are delighted to have been invited to view the Liverpool Rivers of the World national exhibition, featuring the 12 collaborative artworks created by Liverpool and Zimbabwe schools. We also had the opportunity to participate in a creative workshop with our project artist Adam Sadiq, in person at the Museum of Liverpool. This was a reflection on the project, and a further exploration of the themes of the exhibition and the significance of the River Mersey, all whilst learning how to manipulate and transfer their work into Augmented Reality imagery.



## Photography Trip around the Wirral's Coast!

The Year 11 photographers went on a trip around the Wirral's beautiful coast, from Seacombe to Red Rock to Leasowe to Thurstaston. The weather was unpredictable at times but this gave the opportunity to take a range of landscape and seascape photos displaying some really dramatic skies. Upon return to the classroom the pupils are beginning to manipulate these images in the style of the landscape Photographer Victoria Siemer.



# English

## Year 7

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their English studies this Autumn term. Pupils have begun reading 'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens, focusing on themes such as identity, friendship, compassion and resilience.

Through their study of Dickens and life in Victorian Britain, pupils have expanded their understanding of this period in history, whilst developing their vocabulary through learning homeworks and a range of knowledge tests.

Year 7 pupils have settled extremely well in English and staff have reported on their maturity during class discussions about difficult topics related to poor Victorian life. Pupils have demonstrated great empathy and compassion not only in these discussions, but also in their creative writing pieces.



Pupils have empathised with poor Victorian children through tasks such as writing diary entries from the perspective of a poor child. This has enabled pupils to demonstrate their varied and rich vocabulary, as well as their expansive imaginations, delving into the life of children who had to work in factories or as chimney sweeps. Year 7 pupils have shown real enthusiasm in reading aloud in class, bringing to life the complex characters in the story with expression.

Not only have pupils impressed their teachers with their fantastic creative writing, but also with their excellent oracy skills. Pupils have had opportunities to debate and share their personal opinions about the novel in class discussions, using their historical context knowledge to inform their opinion. This has helped students to complete extended writing tasks where they have analysed language and demonstrated their understanding of the writer's craft using quotations as evidence. This has improved the pupils' confidence to complete extended writing tasks by using their analytical skills to interrogate the text, something that students will rely upon more throughout their academic journey.

Well done Year 7 for your fantastic commitment this term and for a brilliant start to your secondary education!



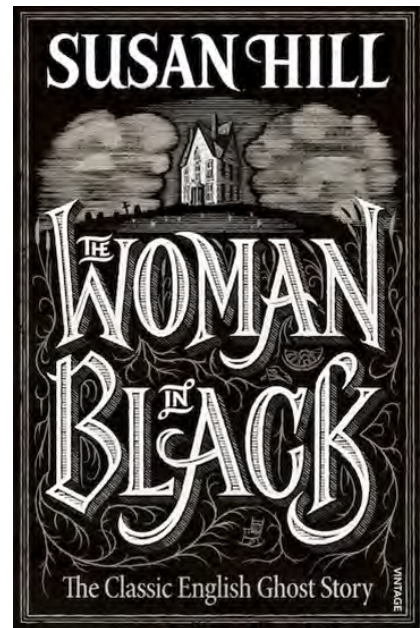


# English

## Year 8

Year 8 returned from summer, and have made an excellent start to their English studies. They have begun the Autumn term by diving into the gothic classic, *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. Students have been focusing on themes and techniques that contribute to a gothic horror novel, and have been exploring these in depth in class.

Through their study of *The Woman in Black*, students have spent time expanding their knowledge by delving into the context of Gothic literature. Through reading *The Woman in Black*, Year 8 have built on their character development knowledge from Year Seven, and put this knowledge to the test by answering assessment questions. Students have been learning about the qualities that make and build up tension and how Hill uses literary techniques to build suspense throughout the novel.



Year 8 have been reading aloud in class, improving their oracy skills. Many students are enthusiastic to read and this confidence really projects onto the rest of the class, empowering other students to read aloud. It has really been clear from the beginning that students have been upholding their Christian Values, showing their classmates compassion and respect whilst reading. When reading, students have been fantastic at remembering and recalling the key elements of tension, which has led to some very dramatic readings of chapters, showing how engaged students are with *The Woman in Black*.

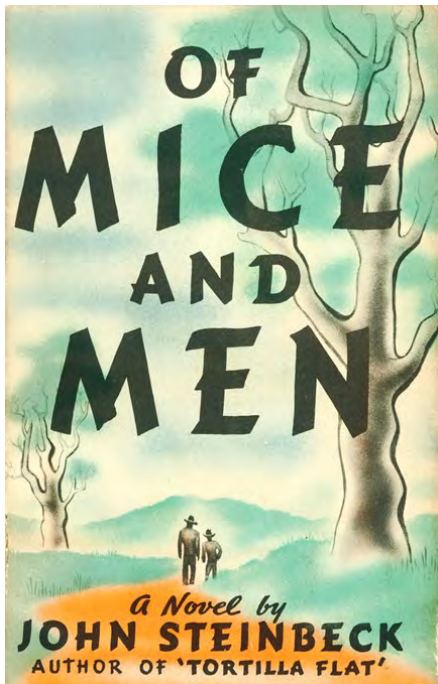
The hard work Year 8 have been putting in this half term is evident when looking at the excellent standard of work in their exercise books. They are looking forward to showing off the impressive skills they have gained in their assessment.

Well done Year 8 for your fantastic ideas and brilliant work this half term, there is so much to be proud of and so many successes to share! Keep it up!



# 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 two texts, Year 9 have analysed many topical issues; including racism, sexism and the treatment of those less fortunate. Year 9 have examined and analysed these issues through the perspective of the writers, the context and through our own Christian Values.

Whilst reading *Of Mice and Men*, students have used considerable endurance in order to understand the complicated context of the novel, which encompasses The Wall Street Crash, The Great Depression and The Dust Bowl, amongst others. Through the study of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Year 9 have looked in depth at family relationships, and direct and indirect racism.

Students have used compassion and empathy in order to understand the complex relationship between the characters of George and Lennie, and indeed the relationships between all of the characters at the ranch.

Year 9 have begun to, and must continue to, apply their knowledge through the use of answering 'exam style questions'. They must write in an appropriate way, and take advice from both their teachers and their Learning Guides.



Fantastic start to Year 9; keep up all your hard work!



# English

## Year 10

Year 10 have made an excellent adjustment to their study of GCSE English Literature by continuing to learn about William Shakespeare's epic tragedy: *Macbeth*. Pupils started learning about the magic and mystery of the play by looking at how the theme of 'the supernatural' influenced key events in the play, particularly how the characters of the Witches changed Macbeth's destiny.



So far this year, pupils have made use of their Learning Guides to track the key events, characters and themes throughout the play. By the end of term, pupils need to ensure they have a clear understanding of the plot and most important characters in the play to make sure they can answer any essay question that comes their way.

Pupils are required to answer both an extract question and an essay question in their exam. For the extract question, pupils have to explain where the extract comes from in the play and analyse how Shakespeare has used different key words and language features to influence the audience. In contrast, the essay expects pupils to explore how a particular character or theme is presented throughout the play; therefore, pupils need to ensure they have a clear understanding of the play as a whole.



To aid with their knowledge, we encourage pupils to access the videos available on our English Site (<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/home>), where they can watch lessons delivered by our department about the key characters and themes in *Macbeth*.

Well done on a successful transition to Key Stage 4, Year 10!

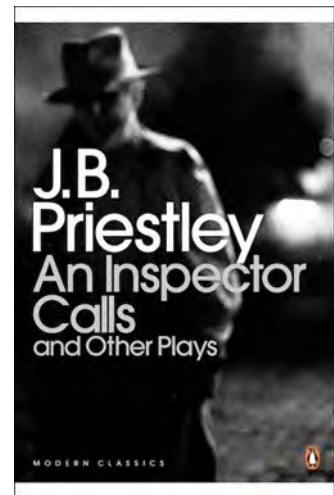
# English

## Year 11

Our current Year 11 pupils have made a fantastic start to their final GCSE year in English. In addition to their regular English lessons, the vast majority of our pupils are also reaping the benefits of additional opportunities such as Period 6, MIMOs and our English Site. As a department, we feel it is crucial that our current Year 11s make the most of every opportunity afforded to them this year, to give them the best chance to achieve their desired grades and make up for potential time lost due to the pandemic.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Year 11 have been focussed on their English Language qualification: reading both 21st century and 19th century texts; analysing the language, structure and tone included within them; and having a go at writing their own non-fiction texts, such as letters, articles, leaflets and reports. Through this, pupils are making the most of their analytical skills, developed throughout their years of English at Woodchurch High School.

On Thursdays, pupils have been working on their knowledge and understanding of one of our key English Literature texts, *An Inspector Calls*, which many parents might remember from their own GCSE years. It is vital pupils have read the play and watched a production, in order to ensure they have a comprehensive understanding of the key events, characters and themes. We have a wealth of videos on our English Site to help pupils further their knowledge of the key components of this play, which they can access from home. On alternate Fridays, pupils are learning how to read and respond to poetry they have never seen before - quite the challenge! However, this is an area our pupils usually respond well to, as have this year's Year 11s.



To assist with revision, progress and homework at home, we recommend pupils and parents access the following resources:

English Site - <https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/home>

- o The KS4 Literature Site is up and running and a perfect resource for KS4 pupils to revise their key GCSE texts: *An Inspector Calls*, *Macbeth* and the Eduqas Poetry Anthology. The Language site is being developed and is coming to you in 2022! Pupils will need their Google log in details to access this resource.

- o BBC Bitesize

Language - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpxh82p>

Literature - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw9mycw>

Congratulations, Year 11, on your hard work so far - continue to let your light shine as you push through these last months before your exams!

# 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>





# Humanities



The Humanities staff would like to pass on their thanks to all the pupils who helped out on open evening. They were excellent ambassadors for the school, engaging with the year 5 and 6 pupils and the parents.

## Fun Geography experiments to do at home!

Tie a piece of yarn or string to the top of a pine cone. Spread peanut butter onto the pine cone. Roll the pine cone in birdseed. Freeze it until hard. Hang it outside in a tree.



Create a work of art made entirely of recycled objects. Using your family's or school's recycling bin, collect cans, jars, and other recyclables. Add discarded wood or paper to create your artwork. Give your artwork away as a gift.



## Year 7

Year 7 have been looking at "what is Geography?" this unit focuses on developing their skills in photo analysis and map skills. Pupils have looked at the recent La Palma volcanic eruption in the Canary islands and applied their new skills to analyse what has happened and its effects on people. See this link to watch it erupting!



<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1504509/la-palma-volcano-live-2-5k-ordered-to-lock-down-satellite-images-updates>

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 Ecosystems and how humans are causing species to become endangered. They have studied how and why species have become endangered and how we can all make changes to how we live in a post-Covid world.

## Year 9

Year 9 are looking at the geography of rivers, how they shape the landscape around us and the problems of flooding.

# Humanities

## Year 10

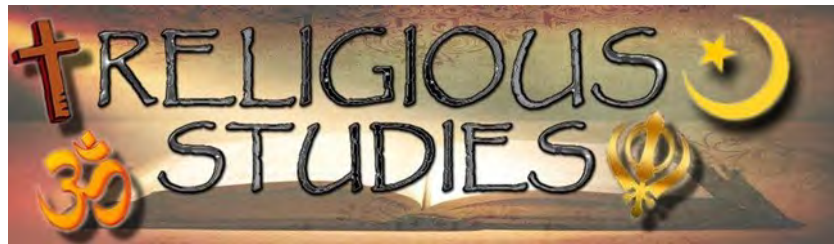
Have been on fieldwork to study the River Alyn at Loggerheads. Here pupils could see how a river changes downstream and how its erosional processes shape the landscape. The pupils had great fun racing ducks to measure velocity, assessing erosion of bedload, measuring depth and width.



## Year 11

Have been revisiting Paper 1 in lessons looking at rivers. In period 6 they have explored these ideas in more detail, and how this can be applied in exams to achieve the highest marks. Year 11 have also been on fieldwork to Loggerheads to develop skills needed for Paper 3 fieldwork. Here we looked at how to plan fieldwork and devising methods to collect data and how human processes can interfere with results.

# Humanities



**Year 7** have settled in well to their classes and have been looking at Christianity. They have been investigating Christian beliefs and rites of passage including baptism and marriage. Mrs Murphy has organised a trip for selected Year 7 students to visit a local Church, so be on the lookout for a letter off your RS teacher.

**Year 8** have started looking at Faith in Action during their RS lessons. This work will contribute towards their Archbishop of York award. They have been researching how people show their faith, for example Bear Grylls and Martin Luther King. Mrs Murphy has organised a trip to the homes of hospitality in Liverpool for selected students, so be on the lookout for a letter of your class teacher.

**Year 9** have embarked on the learning program about the environment, investigating how Christians can be good stewards in the 21st century. They have been learning about the global issues our environment faces and how Christian charities and religious people have been inspired by their faith to protect the environment from problems like climate change and deforestation.

**Year 10** have made a great start to their GCSE course and have been focusing on their philosophy and ethics paper. The first unit from this paper is issues about relationships, they have nearly completed this section and will need to revise in preparation for an assessment. Students have all been given a knowledge organiser to help with their revision.

**Year 11** have started revision lessons in RS in preparation for their GCSE next year. There are three papers to revise for and this term they have started with Christianity. All students have been given a paper copy of their revision guide and will need to use this for their upcoming assessment after half term.



# Humanities



**Year 7** have made a great start to their History studies at Woodchurch. They're exploring the reasons why William won the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and are getting stuck into historical sources in the process. Our Year 7 website is live for all students to access an overview of the topic and their homework for each lesson.

**Year 8** are just about to sit their first assessment of the year, evaluating which monarch was most likely to have murdered two young boys - Princes Edward and Richard. It was either Richard III, whose remains were found in a car park in Leicester in 2012, or Henry Tudor, father of the infamous Henry VIII. Year 8 can find the resources that they need to use to prepare for this assessment on the Year 8 section of our History website.

**Year 9** are continuing with their learning about the British Empire which they began in Year 8. The current topic is the Transatlantic Slave Trade; perhaps as many as 12 million Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic, destined for a life of slavery. Students are developing their skills for GCSE, focussing particularly on making inferences and understanding historical interpretations.

**Year 10** have made a confident start to GCSE History. The first paper they are studying is *Health and Medicine through Time, c. 500 - Present Day*. They have been learning about bizarre medieval beliefs and treatments, and the scientific experiments that brought about the first vaccines and antibiotics. Year 10 have their first assessment on 15th October - the revision guide has been shared with them via the school website.

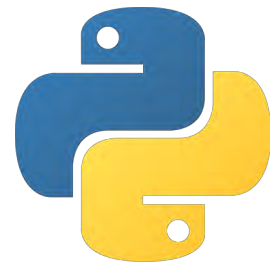
**Year 11** have made a great start to their third and final paper - *The Development of the USA, 1929-2000*. They have explored the terrible effects of the Great Depression and the way in which Roosevelt's New Deal aimed to combat this. We are now moving onto the economic impact of WWII; it was this event that helped the USA to return to full employment and the affluence of the 1950s. Year 11 must keep on top of their subject knowledge on the other two papers - Nazi Germany and Health and Medicine, by using our History website.

# Computing & Business

## KS3 Coding Club

This term the Computing department has been running a KS3 Coding Club. Pupils have been attending weekly lunchtime sessions and have been learning to program using a block based language. This has helped them develop their programming skills and has been especially useful for Year 8 pupils who are currently working on a programming project within their Computing lessons.

So far, pupils have written code for and completed a dance party simulator and a plastic pollution game. Some pupils have been able to transfer the skills they have learned to the text based language, Python. These skills will equip the pupils with the skills required for careers within the digital world and the sessions have helped pupils build confidence with their programming skills.



All KS3 pupils are welcome to attend and should speak to Miss Merrall for more information.

For the newsletter this month, I have included information about 3 different apps that you might find useful to help support your child when using their electronic devices at home:

1. Apple Guided Access - This sheet gives you information about how you can set up restrictions on iphones and ipads to ensure that they are used safely. This can be especially useful when you are lending your phone to your child or multiple people are sharing an ipad within the household
2. Age Rating Guidance - As more pupils will be looking to get new games for Christmas, this sheet gives a reminder of what the age ratings on games might mean and how you can make a decision about what games are suitable for your children.
3. Online Shopping - Again, with Christmas on the horizon, this sheet gives a timely reminder of the issues associated with online shopping and some of the common problems that people come across. This could be especially useful to discuss with children who are looking to do online shopping for the first time

More information around online safety will be included in the next newsletter. As ever, if you have any questions, please contact me on my email address below.

Mr Bunby—Curriculum Leader for Computing & Business

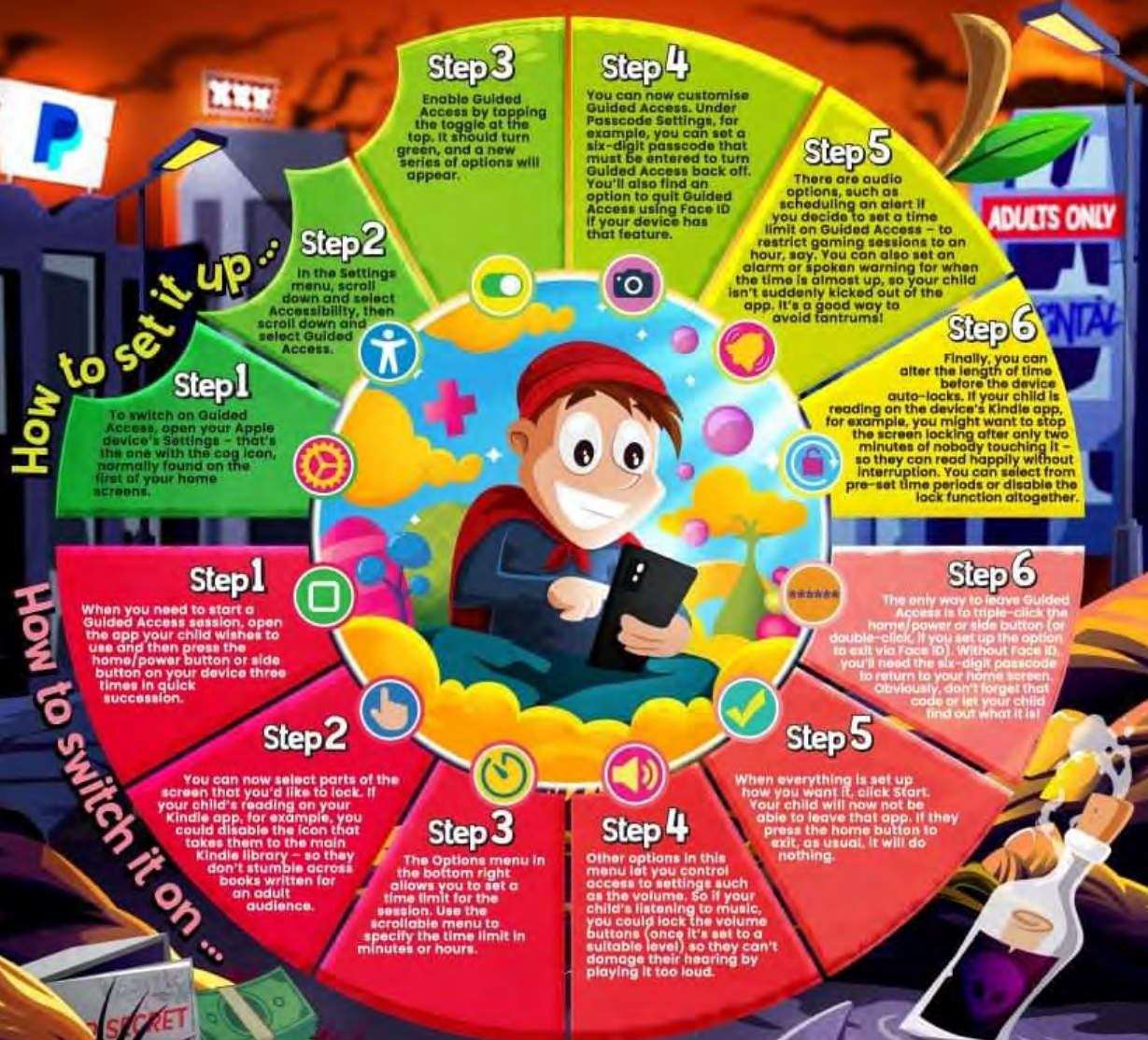
[adam.bunby@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:adam.bunby@woodchurchhigh.com)



# What Parents and Carers Need to Know about APPLE GUIDED ACCESS

Phones and iPads don't offer separate user accounts. So when you hand your Apple device to a child to play a game or watch a video, you're also handing them access to your email, the web, messaging and numerous other apps through which they could accidentally do something regrettable.

Apple Guided Access solves this potential problem by letting you restrict the iPhone or iPad to one particular app whenever your child uses the device. If they try and leave that app, they will be asked for a password or Face ID, meaning they can't access anything they shouldn't elsewhere on the device. Here, we show you how to find and set up the Guided Access feature, so you can confidently let your child borrow your iPhone or iPad.



## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



SOURCES: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT202812>



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# 10 Top Tips for SAFER ONLINE SHOPPING



## 1. CHECK IT'S A LEGITIMATE SITE

It's safest to stick with well-known, reputable retailers. If a site doesn't look professional, or has weird pop-up ads, it's best to steer clear – no matter how tempting their prices. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is!

## 2. MAKE SURE THE SITE IS SECURE

When you're buying online, look for a padlock icon near the address bar – or check if the URL includes "https" or "shhttp". The extra 's' or the padlock mean you can rest easy: you're sending your card details and personal info via a secure channel.

## 3. READ THE SMALL PRINT

Take note of details like a seller's returns policy. It's easy to shop impulsively when you're online and then be stuck with unwanted items because of a very small window for returning goods. Also check delivery estimates if you're buying for a specific date (like a birthday).

## 4. CREATE SECURE PASSWORDS

When shopping around online, you'll often need to set up an account when buying from a site for the first time. Choose a different password for each: the longer, the better. It's best practice to mix upper- and lower-case letters, symbols and numbers.

## 5. ACKNOWLEDGE THE ASTERISK

When you register with them, online retailers clearly need some essential info (name, address, payment details, etc), usually marked by an asterisk. Anything else is for marketing purposes or possibly to sell your data. So don't feel pressured into giving those details out.

## 6. AVOID PUBLIC WI-FI

When you are on the high street, don't use public WiFi to buy things online. It might seem super-efficient to shop on your phone while you're queuing or taking a break – but the WiFi in shopping centres or coffee shops isn't secure. Using 3G or 4G will be slower, but it's safer.

## 7. REINFORCE YOUR SECURITY

Before you shop, check that your browser and any anti-virus software are up to date. Updates often contain improvements to your device's security. You could also consider using intermediary services like PayPal, Apple Pay or Google Pay, which offer advanced protection.

## 8. WATCH OUT FOR PHISHING

Retailers regularly send out emails to publicise their latest deals. Hackers often try to use this traffic as camouflage; look out for emails with poor grammar, suspicious reply addresses and pixelated images – they're all signs of an attempt to 'phish' your personal details.

## 9. PLAN YOUR SHOPPING

Before going online, make a list of what you're in the market for – and stick to it. Because you're not physically putting items in a bag that you then have to carry, it's easy to lose track of how much you've bought and end up with a massive over-spend by the time you log off.

## 10. READ THE REVIEWS

We've all bought something which sounded amazing online, only for it to be far less impressive when it actually arrived. Take time to read other buyers' views on an item – and think twice about anything that only has a small number of comments about it.



SOURCES:  
<https://www.statista.com/topics/871/online-shopping/>



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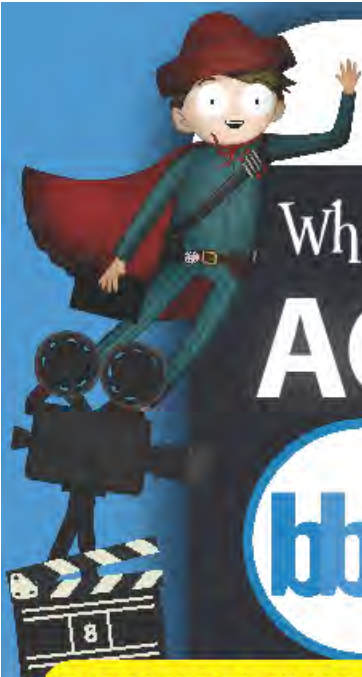
/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

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# What parents need to know about AGE RATINGS



If you have children, it is understandable to have concerns about the films and TV shows they watch, as well as the games they play. In this guide, we take a look at the two official ways you can assess if a particular title is suitable for your child. Both the BBFC and PEGI have search facilities on their websites that can be used to look up individual titles so you can check their ratings.



## RATINGS FOR FILMS, TV & MUSIC VIDEOS

Since 1912, the BBFC (British Board of Film Classification) has informed UK residents of the age suitability of films, TV and music videos - providing parents with the information needed to assess whether or not it is appropriate for their child's age. This applies to cinema releases, DVDs and streaming video services such as Netflix.

### WHAT ARE THE BBFC RATINGS?

BBFC ratings are broken down into seven age categories:



### WHAT ELSE CAN BBFC REVEAL?

Accompanied with the age suitability rating, BBFC also provide an additional warning regarding the content and what to expect, such as swearing, sexual content, violence and anything you may consider to be inappropriate for your child. In addition to this, the content is also rated in three levels: frequent, mild or strong.

### LIMITATIONS OF BBFC RATINGS

It's important to note that there is no obligation on streaming video services to use or display BBFC ratings. Due to this, we advise that you check the rating online before your child streams the content. It may also be a good idea to watch the content first yourself or discuss it with other parents to help you decide whether or not it is suitable for your child.

Source: [www.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)



**National  
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Safety**

A whole school community approach to online safety  
[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Email us at [hello@nationalonlinesafety.com](mailto:hello@nationalonlinesafety.com) or call us on 0800 368 8061

## RATINGS FOR GAMES

PEGI (Pan European Game Information) is a content rating system that ensures all video games are labelled with a minimum age recommendation. These age recommendations are based on the types of content featured within a game. With each game, PEGI also provide a content descriptor that indicates the potential issues and concerns, including sex, violence, bad language and drugs.

### WHAT ARE THE PEGI RATINGS?

PEGI ratings are split into age restriction and content descriptors. Additional 'content descriptors' help parents and children to understand the type of content featured within a particular game, including sex, fear, bad language, discrimination, gambling, drugs, violence, and in-game purchases. In combination, the two different ratings can provide a good level of information to help make informed decisions regarding the suitability for your child.

PEGI age ratings are broken down into five categories:



PEGI content descriptors are broken down into eight categories:



### LIMITATIONS OF PEGI RATINGS

It's possible for young people to buy games online without a required proof of age, opening them up to age-inappropriate content without you knowing. We advise that you regularly monitor your child's gaming activities and maintain a honest and healthy dialogue with them about the online world.

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

It is a good idea to put in place parental controls for all online accounts which your child may use to purchase or download online games e.g. The App Store, Google Play Store, PlayStation Store and Microsoft Xbox Store etc.

Source: [www.pegi.info](http://www.pegi.info)



# Maths

## **Times Table Rock Stars**

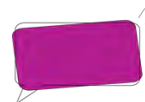
This half term, Key Stage 3 students competed in a speed competition for the title of Times Tables Rock Star! Students answered as many questions they could under pressure in a time limit of 5 minutes; with some amazing results.

Our three year group winners all managed to complete 100 questions without a single error! In year 7: James Collinson was able to answer a question correctly every 2.3 seconds. Rubee Taylor led year 8; answering a question correctly every 2.4 seconds. And speediest of all; Gabriel Nabong in year 9 answered with an average time of 1.3 seconds per question!

Certificates will be awarded to year group and class winners in assemblies.



# MFL



The MFL department would like to say a big well done to pupils studying French and Spanish. Pupils have shown outstanding endurance since their return to school and have made an excellent start to their studies this year. ¡Gracias! Merci!

## Google Classroom: Homework

The MFL department is 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. Homework should also continue to be logged in planners as usual so that parents remain aware of any engagement with independent learning.



All learning homework set is also available on our MFL Google Site!

## Assessments

All year groups are currently preparing for their first assessment in MFL this year. To support their progress, pupils can access a range of key grammar and topic resources via our MFL Google Site. One way Year 10 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 encouraged to use the condensed knowledge organisers provided for each GCSE 'Theme' and to use these to support their ongoing 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.

## Year 11 assessments

Before the Summer Year 11 pupils completed trial exams in French and Spanish. Pupils revised well for these exams and MFL would like to say thank you to Year 11 for their endurance and commitment to revision. Year 11 pupils should continue to use their vocabulary books and the MFL Google Site to revise key concepts and grammar points.

## 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! For pupils studying languages at GCSE, pupils can now find knowledge organisers for each topic, grammar video explanations and topic videos to support their revision for GCSE exams. Class teachers will have shown pupils where resources are on the website, but pupils should ask their class teacher if they need any support accessing resources!

The MFL Google Site also has resources to support revision and learning in KS3. If a pupil has any ideas as to what they would like to be included on the google site to support them further, please see Mr White in MFL 6.

**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 practising language skills will make recalling vocabulary a lot easier!**

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

# PE

## Greenbank Sports Academy

As part of our extensive SEND PE curriculum we run a variety of sporting trips to Greenbank Sports Academy. This half term we sent seven of our SEND pupils to our first tournament, 5 A-side football, and they came in 3rd place, our pupils gave it their all and were a credit to the school. They had such good fun and are looking forward to plenty more sporting trips in the future.



On Thursday 14th October, our Year 7 Dodgeball team also visited Greenbank Sports Academy and showed great endurance and teamwork, coming in 4th place against teams comprised of children two years older. Well done, Year 7!





# Performing Arts

## Drama

### Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have been exploring the history of theatre. Reflecting on how it has developed over time and how this links to the identity of different people and their cultures. They have explored the origins of theatre through exploration of Ancient Greece and pupils developed their own performances based on Greek Gods, using the skills of Ensemble and Greek Chorus. They have also begun to explore 16th Century Italian Theatre, looking at Commedia Dell'Arte. Pupils have had lots of fun bringing to life key stock characters, including the Captain and Zanni!



### Year 8

This half-term Year 8 have been exploring the mysterious story of Darkwood Manor! Pupils heard the terrifying tale of the secluded house and are exploring different ideas about how Lord and Lady Darkwood came to meet their fate. Pupils started with the creation of their own newspaper reports - bringing to life the terrible tale using key vocal and physical skills. Following such success with these skills, pupils began to work on developing their physical theatre skills - using only their bodies to bring each room of the house to life.

### Year 9

Year 9 have been exploring the topic of War and Conflict this half-term. Pupils have developed their understanding through a range of stimuli, including Wilfred Owen's *Dulce et Decorum Est* and stories of Syrian refugees. Pupils have been challenging their ideas around these topics and developing an understanding of different voices and perspectives ready for them to develop their own performances later this term. We are really excited to see what they come up with!



# Performing Arts

## Year 10

Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE course, exploring different theatre practitioners and different styles of Drama. Pupils started with the 'father of theatre,' Stanislavski and explored his naturalistic methods of performance before moving on to explore more non-naturalistic styles, including those of Artaud and Brecht. Pupils then moved on to look at Theatre in Education in the style of Boal and then explored the weird and wonderful world of Steven Berkoff, developing their use of his techniques through a performance of Kafka's Metamorphosis. Miss Jones has been incredibly impressed with Year 10's engagement with the subject so far and is looking forward to seeing how they progress throughout the course of their GCSE study. Well done, Year 10!



## Year 11

Year 11 have been working tirelessly to ready their Component 1 performance for assessment at the end of this month. Pupils took their stimuli of technology and social media and have worked to develop their own performances around these ideas. We have a huge range of ideas, including a time travelling television remote, teenage issues, a violent virtual reality headset and a school set for stardom! We're so impressed with the creativity and engagement of our pupils this year and we can't wait to see their final performances. Keep it up, Year 11!

# Performing Arts



## Music News

### Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have taken their first steps on their own, personal musical journey! Pupils have developed their understanding of what a musical Pulse is and how to identify it within all musical styles- from Bob Marley to Lizzo! They are now starting to apply the key skill of performing with a sense of pulse to their new learning of rhythmic notation by performing short, one bar rhythms. Learning to read music is not too different from learning a new language and we've been particularly impressed with our pupils' ability and endurance, when learning such difficult concepts at such an early stage.

### Year 8

This half-term has seen Year 8 begin to explore a genre which is considered by many as the foundation to all pop music: the Blues. Pupils have shown great maturity when learning about the historical context of the Blues as a result of the American Slave Trade, and Liverpool's part in that dark side of history. Furthermore, Year 8 pupils have shown an enthusiasm for exploring the key features of Blues Music within whole class activities.



Mr Payne and Mr Fenney look forward to developing pupils' keyboard skills further as they explore the various key features of blues next half-term. As new members of staff both teachers have been impressed with the passion that Year 8 students have for practical music. Keep it up, Year 8!

### Year 9

Over the last half-term Year 9 pupils have been studying Rap and Hip Hop music: not only its development as a genre from the 1970s until the present day, but also practically developing our own vocal skills through rap. Not only have students had the opportunity to learn and perform different styles of rap, but they have also composed their own short rap verses.

Mr Fenney and Mr Payne have been astounded by the way in which Year 9 have thrown themselves into this new topic, and they look forward to seeing their musical development next term as they join Year 8 in studying 'The Blues'. Well done Year 9- there are definitely many students who should be considering continuing Music into Year 10.





# Performing Arts



## Year 10

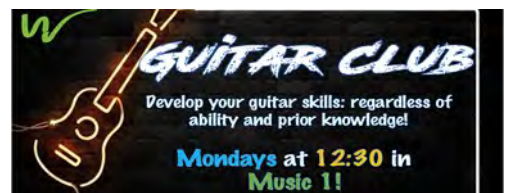
This half-term, Year 10 have made a very positive start towards the first year of their BTEC course. Firstly exploring their prior theoretical knowledge in the lessons, then understanding their practical skills on their chosen instruments. Mr Payne and Mr Fenney have been particularly impressed with the way Year 10 have shown Endurance in Music, showing confidence during performance lessons and extending their musical practice outside of lessons as well by attending the Y10 performance clinic after school on Thursdays. Year 10 have demonstrated an excellent attitude when covering a variety of tricky theoretical topics. Well Done Year 10 and continue this positive start!

## Year 11

This half-term, Year 11 have returned to Woodchurch with an extremely positive hard working attitude in music. Pupils began the year by completing a skills audit to help them identify the areas of strength within their practical abilities and the areas for improvement. In doing this it has allowed Year 11 many practical lessons to explore these areas for development to keep improving as overall performers. As a department, we are extremely proud of the Year group for their commitment during lessons and work outside of lessons. A very bright start to the final year of school, Keep this up Year 11!

### Performing Arts - Extra Curricular:

The Music and Drama department this half-term have provided students with many extracurricular activities and clubs to attend both during and after school. These clubs include; Guitar club, Keyboard club, Choir, drama club and a B-tec performance clinic. All these extracurricular activities are available to all genders and abilities to enhance and gain skills within Music.



## Moana

Finally, we are extremely excited to be staging another school production this year! We're back with our biggest show yet, Disney's 'Moana Jr'! Pupils auditioned for numerous roles in what was an excellent turn out! Rehearsals are underway and all the staff across the Performing Arts department are extremely excited to produce what will be a fantastic show with a wide variety of talent across the year groups!



# Science

## Year 9 #IAMSET Engineering Online Summer Project

Over the Summer Holidays, Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the IAMSET Engineering online virtual event.

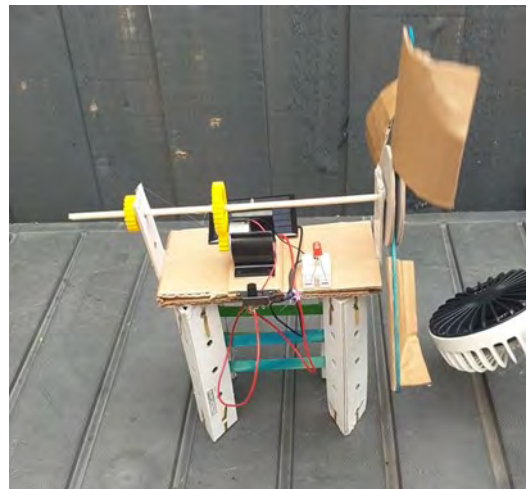
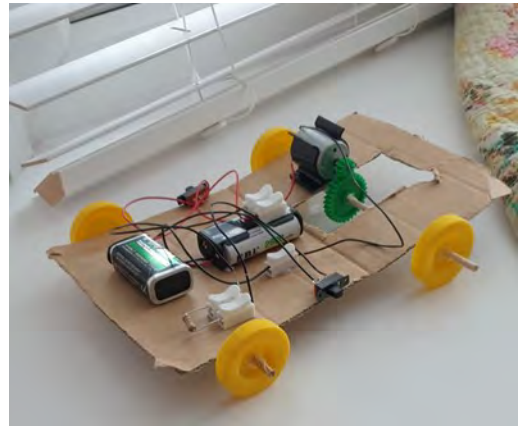
Our pupils had a fantastic time completing hands-on practical activities, building prototypes and solving practical challenges using lateral thinking. Pupils received everything that they needed for the 3 day challenge delivered to their door!

Pupils also got the chance to experience what engineers do in the real world and how they have a positive impact on people and our planet! They explored a range of careers linked to science and engineering.

There was an opportunity to speak to engineers to find out all about their interests and varied career paths into engineering.

Our pupils found the project really interesting, fun and challenging. They were so proud of how they developed their engineering skills as well as their presentation, leadership and team working skills, as they worked alongside pupils from other schools.

Well done to our Year 9 pupils involved.



## Year 10- STEM Robotics Day

In September, Year 10 students had the opportunity to work with MTC, Manufacturing Technology Centre, to learn more about career opportunities in robotics, manufacturing and engineering. The main event in this workshop was “Spot” the Boston Dynamics robotic dog. The students had the opportunity to control “Spot” and use his camera and motion sensors to solve mathematical problems. Pupils also got the opportunity to speak to engineers, designers and sales reps to discuss careers in this rapidly growing sector. This allowed students to think about their careers post-16 and the opportunities and challenges they are facing in the rapidly changing world of work.

Here at Woodchurch High School we feel incredibly lucky to have had the chance to have run this workshop and are looking forward to opening up this opportunity to other students and will continue to work with MTC in the future.



# Science

On Wednesday 29th September 25 Year 10 pupils virtually joined a UK Space Conference to hear about different people's inspirational routes into Space careers. We heard from women and men from all over the world who are working Space careers, from financial services to satellite origami! Our dedicated pupils had lots of questions and were especially interested in the competitions and apprenticeships people completed prior to their careers.

Following the conference Mr Hawker-Green spent 30 minutes answering as many space related questions as possible - and our pupils had many! We even started discussing Einstein's theory of relativity and time dilation. We hope this conference has opened the door to the possibility of a career in the space industry.



# Eco

## Recycling Reps



Our Year 7 pupils participated in our first recycling competition of the Year. The aim of this Form challenge was for pupils to gather as many used bread bags as possible to donate to the Warburtons Bakery Recycling Programme by Terracycle. Over 200 bags were generously recycled and brought in. All Forms contributed and the winners for collecting the most bags in each Form Band were 7XZ and 7YN.

## Eco Reps' Pledge

Miss Hughes (Eco Coordinator) delivered the first Eco Assemblies of the Year. The aim of the Autumn presentation was to introduce the importance of the Eco Pledge at Woodchurch High School that will guide our Eco Representative Pupils and Committee Members to lead our School into a sustainable future and promote and inspire responsible attitudes towards our environment.

### Eco Reps' Pledge/Role at Woodchurch High School

- To raise your Form's awareness about Ecological issues.
- To attend Eco Assemblies and represent your Form.
- To demonstrate and promote responsible attitudes towards the environment to those around you.
- To be someone committed to environmental sustainability and strive to lead the School into a sustainable future.



# Citizenship



On the 24th September we celebrated and awarded Year 9 with their certificates and badges in regards to achieving their Archbishop of York Award. Over 200 pupils achieved one of the three Leadership Awards after completing different challenges in Year 8.

We were so happy to be able to invite parents and carers back into school for such a wonderful event. We were also happy to welcome our Chair of Governors, Tony Smith, to speak to our pupils and present the certificates along with the President of Birkenhead Rotary Club, Graham Connolly who presented the badges and our Birkenhead Rotary link, Barbara Sinclair.

It is our hope that our Year 9 pupils use this leadership award to go on and achieve further character achievements in the future.

We are also pleased to announce that our current year 8 pupils have already started their journey to achieving their Archbishop of York Award and each form group have been raising money for a chosen charities this year by completing their form sponsored walks.

We look forward to hearing about how they are performing as the year progresses.

## Charity

We are pleased to announce that as a school we raised over £7,500 last year, much of that amount coming from the sponsored walks the current year 9 completed last year.

Over the last 10 years we have raised over £45,000 for local, national and international charities.

The pupils should be incredibly proud of their achievements and the significant impact their fund raising will have on the following charities.

A-Rocha, Dementia Wirral, Open Door Centre, and Wirral Fund for Children with Special Needs

We received a lovely letter of thanks from Wirral Fund for Children with Special Needs:

*"On behalf of the Committee of the Fund, I would like to express our grateful thanks to the pupils and staff of Woodchurch High School for their magnificent fund raising and donation to the Fund. I understand that a donation of £1,800 has been forwarded to the Fund's Bank."*

*I can assure you that this donation will be put to good use to assist us with our work on behalf of children with special needs. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to your pupils and staff. "*



# Diary Dates

Friday 22nd October 2021

Staff Development Day

Monday 25th October 2021 -  
Friday 29th October 2021

Half Term

Monday 1st November 2021

School re-opens

Friday 17th December 2021

School closes to all pupils at 2.15 pm

Monday 20th December 2021 -  
Monday 3rd January 2022

Christmas Holidays

Tuesday 4th January 2022

School re-opens to all pupils