

Newsletter - February 2022

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God"

Hebrews 13:16

Message from Ms Phillips

Exciting times for Year 9 pupils as they embark upon the Options process 2022. This week has seen four days of Options events, including the Options Events Showcase Evenings where each subject presented their courses. Parents and pupils joined a livestream where questions were posed and answered live by Mr Canham and Miss Coombs. On Thursday 17th February Year 9 pupils and their parents/carers attended Options appointments with staff in school; all pupils have now completed their Option choices.

We are extremely proud of the extensive list of Options subjects that we are able to offer our children and we trust that Year 9 are feeling excited about their future Key Stage 4 programme.

Catering

We are delighted to have launched our new food provision across the school. Pupils are enjoying our exciting new menus which are available for you to see on the school website. Initially this was for Year 10's and Year 11's in the Sports Complex Catering pod but will be rolled out across the whole school when we return after half term on the 28th February.

Online payments for School Meals are now via our new app **MCAS** with no minimum top up amount. For help with using the app, contact the school office on **0151 677 5257**.

<h2>Weekly Menu</h2> <h3>Woodchurch High School</h3>				
Monday Chicken Tandoori Butter Curry Served with Rice and Naan Bread Onion Bhaji Burger in a Naan Bread Served with Salad and Mint Yogurt	Tuesday Chicken Fillet Burger on a Brioche Bun Served with Pulled Pork and Cheese Halloumi Burger on a Brioche Bun Served with Sweet Potato Fries	Wednesday Chicken Kebab on a Flatbread Served with Salad and Rice Margherita Calzone	Thursday Southern Fried Chicken Box Chicken Strips and Popcorn Chicken Served with Wedges, Beans or Corn on the Cob Creamy Quorn Curry Served with Rice and Naan Bread	Friday Fish and Chips (Speciality Chips of the Day) Served with Mushy Peas or Beans Quorn Swedish style Balls in a Brioche Hot Dog Roll
Available Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A selection of freshly made sandwiches, Rolls, Baguettes, Wraps, Salads * Home-Baked Desserts * Yoghurts, Fruit Pots * Cheese and Crackers 		Available Daily <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assorted Panini's * Pizza * Pasta Bar * Jacket Potato with fillings * 		



Work Experience

At the time of writing, Year 10 are undertaking their Work Experience placements. After making the decision in May of last year, that we would assume Work Experience would be possible, notwithstanding the restrictions, we are delighted our children are benefiting from learning about the world of work, through experience of a real workplace.

Anecdotal feedback to date on pupils' progress and engagement has been fabulous - they always are our very best ambassadors. Notwithstanding some minor issues for a small number of pupils, we know that the experiences they have whilst on placement will benefit them for the future, not least as they will be making their post-16 applications from October of next academic year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who are actively supporting our pupils on placement by visiting, as well as to pay special tribute to Mrs Diane Garrett, who oversees much of the administrative work that goes on behind the scenes.

Mrs Garrett will retire later this week, after being at the school since 2006. During that time, she has supported Work Experience, Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance events, not least organising our annual Careers Fairs for us, as well as assisting with the organisation of our Open Events. Thank you Mrs Garrett for all your excellent hard work and support, we wish you a very happy retirement.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance

The Careers team feel that it is important you are fully aware of the Work-Related Learning, Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance opportunities and support that are available to your child. There are extensive resources in the Careers Section on the school G-site, the link for this can be found on the pupil intranet section of the school website.

It is important that they fully engage with the programme, as this will ensure they make informed decisions about their post-16 option choices and destination routes.

Our careers programme offers pupils the opportunity to:

- Have at least one Careers Guidance Interview, for any pupil in any year group. These are currently being done over the telephone, and can be requested by emailing Miss Quigley.
- Attend virtual open evenings/events delivered by post 16 providers.
- Weekly virtual assemblies delivered by a variety of post- 16 providers and employers for Year 10/ 11.
- Access to the careers education G-site.
- Access KUDOS and SMART.

Each week, a list of forthcoming events is circulated to Year 11 forms and we would strongly recommend that your son / daughter consults this carefully.

Additionally, we would also strongly recommend pupils set up online accounts with KUDOS and START, which school has funded access for all Year pupils to this service. Again, full details can be found in the Pupil Planners, including setting up an account / login details.

During a recent meeting with representatives from the Liverpool City Region, we were pleased to be commended for our Careers programme and all the support we offer here at Woodchurch.

Lunar New Year at Woodchurch High School

This year at Woodchurch High, we have welcomed many new students and their families, who have recently moved to the UK from Hong Kong. The students have settled in well to their new school, they have adjusted to the cultural differences and adapted to the .

In Hong Kong, China and across Asia, this is a very important time of year as they celebrate the Lunar New Year. At this time, families come together and welcome in the new year with meals together and the giving of red envelopes of money as a blessing to each other for the year ahead.

To mark this occasion at Woodchurch High School, in registration our students have been learning about the significance of the Lunar New Year, with a focus on the cultural traditions and the symbolism of these. The students have learnt why the colour red is associated with the celebration, why people give red envelopes of money and why mandarin orange trees are displayed in peoples homes and enjoyed.

In their Art lessons, students have created decorations which symbolise the red envelopes and mandarin oranges featuring Chinese writing and displaying a message of good fortune to the Woodchurch community for the Lunar New Year. These were used to create a beautiful display in the main reception of the school on our trees.

On the first day of the Lunar New Year, the new students from Hong Kong were invited to the Head Teachers office. They were each presented with a traditional red envelope containing a few chocolate coins to represent money, as a blessing of good fortune for the new year.

We would like to wish all our community a Happy New Year for the Year of the Tiger and our cantonese speakers 恭喜發財 - Kung Hei Fat Choi, translated into English this means "Wishing you great happiness and prosperity."



ECAD

Jessica Grady is an award winning mixed media embroidery artist based in Leeds, West Yorkshire. Her colourful and creative work uses combinations of recycled materials to create tactile 3D wall art and sculptures. Jessica teaches her workshops across the UK and Asia.

In January, Year 10 Art Textile students took part in a workshop with Jessica as part of their GCSE coursework. Pupils had previously been researching the artist and were excited to meet Jessica and work closely with her. During the contemporary 'stitch and embellishment' workshop, the pupils used everyday recyclable materials, such as bubble wrap, card, wrappers, threads and metal washers to create unusual and colourful textile responses.

The techniques and processes demonstrated by Jessica really helped the students to gain an insight into the create intricate embellishments that they have been researching.

At the end of the workshop all pupils had designed, stitched and hand embroidered 2 samples that clearly link to Jessica's work. All work produced will be submitted as part of the students GCSE course work.



English

Year 7

This half term, Year 7 began their study of a unit called 'Nature and the Environment'. This unit of work gives pupils the opportunity to explore real-life issues currently facing our planet's environment and animals. Pupils have been learning about myriad topics, including battery chickens, plastic pollution and the treatment of animals in zoos before having a go at writing passionate letters to important figures to campaign for change.

Pupils have been learning about how to accurately format a letter, including how to record addresses and whether to conclude with 'Yours sincerely' and 'Yours faithfully'. The assessment our Year 7 pupils completed required them to apply their knowledge and understanding of how to write a passionate letter to the Headteacher in defence of keeping our school farm.

A number of pupils have enjoyed visiting the farm to explore the wide range of animals that are cared for there and have engaged with different activities to help them learn about how the farm is run. These visits have helped pupils approach their assessment and provided pupils with the unique opportunity to visit a working farm.

After half term break, pupils in Year 7 are going to continue to look at a range of different environmental issues and explore different species that inhabit the earth to prepare for their next assessment. Pupils will be looking more closely at how writers create tension in texts through a range of linguistic techniques and learning how to adequately explain their ideas using analytical paragraphs.

The whole English department would like to express our pride in how well Year 7 pupils have settled into their study of English at WHS and hope pupils will keep up this enthusiasm and focus for the rest of this year.

7XEn6 have been learning about different types of pets as part of their Nature and the Environment project; they have been researching and organising information about different animals to produce a piece of non-fiction writing. To complete their work, Mrs Makin kindly introduced the class to her dog, Ralpie. They asked lots of questions, fed Ralpie some treats and he even showed us some of his amazing tricks! This supported the pupils to feel confident when writing independently because they had experienced first hand meeting and looking after a pet. The lesson also helped prepare to the pupils for their upcoming assessment.



English

Year 8

Year 8 began this half term by completing their narrative writing assessments. Pupils were tasked with writing a short story with a key focus on building tension, following on from their study of the Gothic during the Autumn term. The English department was extremely impressed with the quality of the short stories that Year 8 produced and pupils have spent time in subsequent lessons reflecting on and improving their stories.

This half term, Year 8 have begun focusing on the theme of 'Love and Relationships' by looking at a range of poems. The ideas explored in this topic are not just important to think about during Valentine's Day, which takes place this half term, but are also essential to consider throughout pupils' lives and to help them develop as individuals. Pupils have explored key themes such as childhood, conflict, growing up and the role of parents and carers in a child's life. Pupils have analysed poems in depth, looking at a range of poetic devices, which they have then revised using the English Subject Site.



Year 8 pupils have shown a strong engagement and understanding of key themes within this topic, exploring poets' intentions and the effect of their language with reference to 'Love and Relationships.' This topic links in with our Woodchurch Christian Values, enabling pupils to explore ideas of compassion, wisdom, and our Christian Values for this half term: Hope and Service. It is evident from pupils' hard work and engagement that they are using these Christian values throughout their time at school and at home.



Teachers have particularly recognised how thoughtful Year 8 pupils' responses and analysis of poetry have been. Our PLCs for poetry questions emphasise the importance of sharing personal opinions in a written response, and Year 8 pupils continue to develop their opinions about the ideas in this topic. From their responses, it is clear that pupils are thinking hard about each new poem that they read.

Next half term, Year 8 pupils will begin looking at Shakespeare's play *Much Ado About Nothing*. This will build on their skills from Year 7, where pupils explored *Romeo and Juliet*, whilst tying in with the theme of family, love and relationships. Pupils can use the subject site to prepare for the study of this topic.

Well done Year 8 for your wisdom and commitment to learning this half term.

English

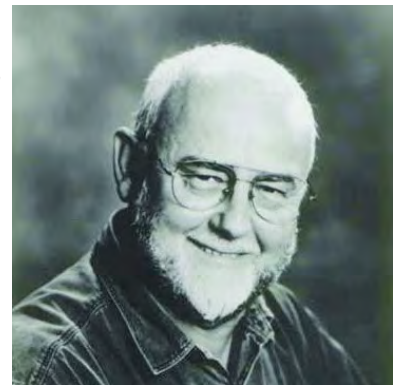
Year 9

Year 9 students have continued to make fantastic progress in their English studies this term. Pupils have started to read 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells, exploring homelessness in the UK. Throughout the novel, Swindells highlights the unfair and prejudiced attitudes many people have towards homeless people and also how vulnerable the homeless really are. Students have shown real compassion and maturity handling these topics and have discussed and debated these themes sensitively in class. In addition to this, students have been exploring speech writing and analysis based on the themes of 'Marginalisation and Compassion'.



During their studies this term, students have expanded their knowledge and understanding of the novel's historical context in MIMO sessions and in classwork. Year 9 have impressed their teachers with their maturity and endurance handling sensitive topics. Students are using this contextual knowledge in their extended writing tasks, demonstrating their understanding of the novel as a whole and the writer's message, which is an essential skill they will need for their next assessment in March.

At the start of the new term, Year 9 students completed a full Language Component 1 paper. This was an excellent opportunity for students to practice answering exam style questions and receive detailed feedback from their teachers using a GCSE Mark Scheme. Overall, students impressed their teachers with their ability to formulate extended responses using an extract. Students also had an opportunity to reflect on their work, improving their responses using Personal Learning Checklists along with teacher feedback.

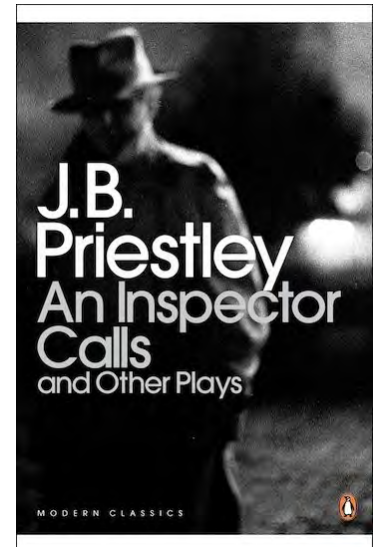


Year 9 have demonstrated dedication and endurance for learning this term and we would like to congratulate them on their success and continued commitment.

English

Year 10

Since the Christmas break, Year 10 have returned to school with renewed enthusiasm and passion for their study of English Literature. Year 10 pupils have begun their study of 'An Inspector Calls', a hard-hitting and inspirational play from J.B. Priestley about the impact of ignorance and a lack of social responsibility on the part of the wealthy. Pupils have been engaging with the plot of the play, which follows the wealthy Birling family's involvement in the death of a working-class woman called Eva Smith and the mysterious Inspector Goole's investigation into who holds the responsibility for her demise. Debating this issue of which character is to blame has engrossed our pupils and helped them engage with Priestley's views on collective social responsibility.



At the end of this half term, pupils have completed an assessment on 'An Inspector Calls' consisting of an exploding extract question which gives pupils to explore their knowledge of the key characters in the play. Pupils had to make sure they had a secure knowledge of each character's role, actions and quotations from throughout the play in order to successfully answer the questions - access to the videos on each character on the English site has been crucial to ensuring pupils are prepared.

Year 10 pupils should continue to engage with independent study, making full use of the Woodchurch Big 4 and the English site, as they begin their study of English Language. It is important pupils maintain their good attendance and engagement with homework to make sure they have a full understanding of Language in preparation for their Year 11 exams.

Well done Year 10 for your hard work and commitment so far this year - please keep this up to ensure you can achieve your goals within English!



English

Year 11



Year 11 kicked off 2022 by continuing their study of Charles Dickens' famous novel 'A Christmas Carol' in preparation for their English Literature Component 2 exam. They have enjoyed meeting beloved characters such as Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come. Pupils have been learning how to write exploding essays that showcase their analysis skills as well as test their memory and understanding of the novel as a whole. Pupils are required to read through a short extract from the novella before linking the characters and themes to elsewhere in the novella. It is important that Year 11 keep up this momentum by revising important quotations, characters, themes and key events throughout the novella using the videos on the English Site as part of their independent study for English. They should use the Woodchurch Big 4 Revision Strategies to help them with their revision but flashcards and mnemonics are especially useful for revising quotations.

Over the past few weeks, Year 11 students have also spent time in lessons preparing for their Centre Assessed Examinations by revising their language analysis skills for both Fiction and Non-Fiction for English Language Component 1 and 2. They have engaged well with a number of practice papers to ensure that they know exactly what to expect when they get into their exam and to help them grow their confidence in approaching unseen texts.

Future College

Year 11 continue to work hard during lessons, Period 6 and in their independent study. Over 100 pupils attended Future College on Saturday 29th January to revise for their English Language CAEs. Pupils were focused and motivated as they 'walked through' a past paper that would prepare them for their impending assessment. Those pupils who made the effort to join us on a Saturday morning were reportedly much more comfortable and felt more prepared for their English Language assessments.

We would also like to say a big well done to pupils for working hard and engaging with their Centre Assessed Examinations. Please maintain this hard work as we approach the final few months of Year 11 and we complete English Literature CAEs next half term!

English Sites Link:

Use the following link to access all areas of the English subject site, whether you are looking for videos on our GCSE Literature texts, help with GCSE Language skills, KPLCs for KS3 assessments, or even hints and tips on how to be successful in upcoming exams.

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

Humanities



In Geography **Year 7** are learning about Tectonic hazards, including Volcanoes. We have erupted a model in class and looked at the recent eruption in the Pacific Ocean. If you would like to make your own at home over the holiday follow this link. <https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-volcano.html>



Year 8 pupils have looked at conflict around water supply in the USA and Blood diamonds in Africa. We are running a trip to Chester zoo to better understand conservation issues, particularly around palm oil- details to be released soon.

Year 9 have completed the Coast unit. In this unit we have looked at how the coast is used, the impacts of the sea on the land and how these can be managed. Over the holidays have a walk around New Brighton or Thurston, what management can you see? Do the work? What are the issues? We are running a pre GCSE trip to look at the impacts of coastal management on the Wirral. Please book using the online gateway, places are limited. This will allow pupils to better understand the current unit and get a feel for GCSE fieldwork.

Year 10 are preparing for the end of unit exam on coasts which will be after half term. Pupils should use the subject sites to review learning and correct misconceptions shown in their exam answers. They should also look over work done on rivers as the exam will combine both elements. We are running a GCSE trip to look at the impacts of coastal management on the Wirral. Please book using the online gateway, places are limited. This will allow pupils to better understand the current unit and get a feel for GCSE fieldwork.



Year 11 will have completed Paper 1 revision for Rivers, coasts and Natural hazards after the holiday we will start Living world. Parents and guardians should ensure that pupils are revising over the holiday any gaps in their knowledge of Paper 1 using the online support from the Geography subject site or websites such as cool geography and bbc bitesize.

<http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/>
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zkw76sg>



Revision materials are provided at Saturday College and the green/blue revision guides.

Humanities



Year 7

Year 7 are preparing for their assessment for their second enquiry of the year - *Did the Normans bring a 'truckload of trouble' to England?* Students have been looking at the changes made by the Normans, including the building of castles to assert power, the use of the feudal system to ensure loyalty and the commissioning of the Domesday Book to facilitate the collection of one of life's great certainties - taxes! Good luck to students as they prepare for their assessments - revision resources are on our [History Learning Site](#).

Year 8

Year 8 are also preparing for their assessments as we speak - they have reached the end of the enquiry - *Should we describe the Tudor period as a religious rollercoaster?* Students have traced the foundations of the Church of England, from the reformation under Henry VIII to the turbulent times that followed as England flip-flopped from Protestantism to Catholicism and back again. Students must focus on the changes made by the monarchs, and also the impacts that these changes had on ordinary people, in preparation for their assessment.

Year 9

Year 9 have been continuing to work towards answering our big question - *Should the British Empire be a source of national pride?* Students have just learned about the British acquisition of Hong Kong in the 1840s and are evaluating the ethics surrounding the intentions and methods used to acquire it. We'll soon be moving onto Africa and how decisions made at a negotiating table in Germany in the 1880s have come to define many of Africa's borders to this day. Again, as Jeremy Paxman claims, students will consider whether the Empire was founded on greed, and whether or not it was a force for good in the world.



Year 10

Year 10 have been making great progress with their GCSE course and are not far off finishing the Health and Medicine paper. Most recently we've been investigating the amazing developments in nursing put forward by Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War. It was Nightingale that insisted that these war hospitals must be clean, with good ventilation, and with the help of her team of 38 nurses, she reduced the death rate from 42% to just 2% in Scutari Hospital in Turkey. Year 10 students must continue to keep on top of the knowledge they've acquired this year by using the asynchronous videos on the [History Learning Site](#).

Year 11

Well done to our Year 11s who have worked so hard to prepare for their Centre Assessed Exams. We know that hard work pays off, and we are making great progress towards the final hurdle this summer. Students have begun the penultimate unit of the USA paper on Cold War rivalry and crises such as the Berlin Blockade of 1948 and the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. During this two-week period, nuclear war was a real possibility and millions of US citizens lived under the threat of an imminent missile attack. It was great to see so many Year 11s come to Future College to prepare for their CAEs, now they must keep on top of their knowledge for all papers by using the [History Learning Site](#).



This half term has seen the start of several new learning programs. Our Year 7 pupils have commenced their textual analysis of St. Mark's Gospel and exploring the life of Jesus Christ, they have worked really hard and learnt new skills using the Bible. In Year 8 we have been looking at the Jews experience during the Holocaust and the pupils have displayed Woodchurch's Christian Values remarkably, approaching the topic with maturity, compassion and humility. Finally for KS3, Year 9 have started their Good and Evil learning programme, covering a variety of topics including how Christians respond to suffering, and considering big theological questions like "how can a loving God allow suffering", which is excellent practice for their GCSEs.



Our Year 10 cohort have started 2022 learning about Christian beliefs and have used the Subject Sites to consolidate their understanding and promote their revision. Year 11 have been preparing for their Centre Assessed Examinations by revising for their Christianity and Philosophy and Ethics examinations. There was an excellent turnout for Saturday College with over 100 students attending and we are very pleased that so many students have used this opportunity.

During this half term, several Year 8 students visited Chester Cathedral for an interactive exhibition for Holocaust Memorial Day which has helped to apply their understanding of topics covered in their learning programme. We have an upcoming trip where Year 9 pupils will also be visiting the Chester Cathedral to further explore their Good and Evil learning programme, offering the opportunity for the pupils to 'judge' various crimes. We are hoping to offer Year 10 pupils an opportunity for trips with information to follow.

Computing & Business

Year 10 pupils have continued to make a positive start to their Business Studies courses. Mrs Hulse is impressed with their increasing subject knowledge, endurance and resilience within lessons.

Year 11 pupils are also working well towards their centre assessed examinations, which are taking place in February. Reminder to all Year 11 pupils that there are revision/support sessions available on Monday mornings 8am or Tuesday lunchtimes.

Reminder to all Business pupils that revision guides are available from Mrs Hulse for £3 and the subject site also has lots of useful information, resources and links to help with revision, homework and tests/exams.

Year 9 pupils recently undertook an Enterprise challenge, demonstrating their leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

A big well done to 9XE who were the winners, raising the most profit over the two week period. This money will now be donated to the schools chosen charities this academic year.

Year 8 will begin the same challenge in the spring term and we are looking forward to seeing more creative, inspiring and unique business ideas, from budding entrepreneurs.

Anyone who requires any more information regarding any of the Business courses on offer at Woodchurch, please get in touch with Mrs Hulse.

On Tuesday February 8th, it was Safer Internet Day. This year it focused on Exploring Respect and Relationships Online. From gaming and chat, to streaming and video, our pupils are helping to shape the interactive entertainment spaces they are a part of. Safer Internet Day 2022 celebrates young people's role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.

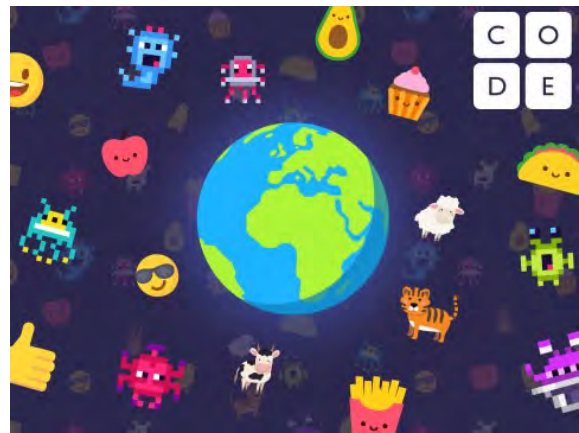
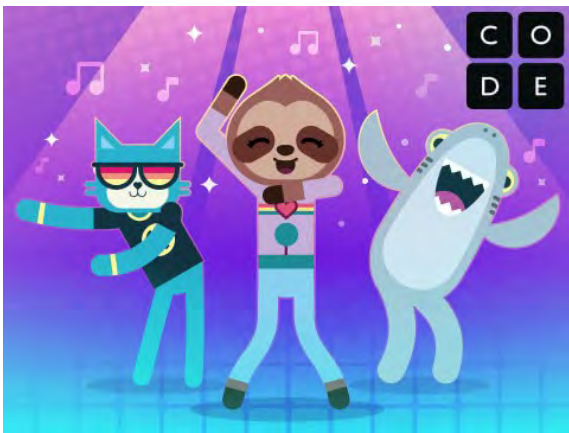


Pupils in year 7, 8 & 9 spent time in their Forms exploring how they should treat their peers when online, how to stay safe when playing online games and how to make using the Internet a positive experience for all.

On the next page is information on how young people can show respect when online and tips that you can share on how to use the Internet safely.

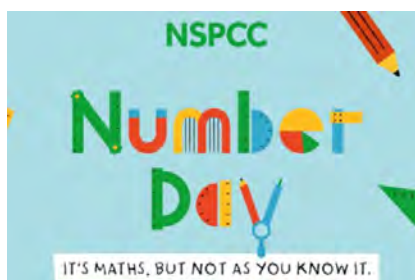
Computing & Business

Calling all programmers, app and game design enthusiasts! Woodchurch High is taking part in an international Hour of Code initiative which helps to equip pupils with the skills they need for their future in a digital world. The KS3 Coding Club runs weekly and pupils are tasked with designing their own games or apps using a programming language of their choice. Pupils can build their programming skills up from block based languages to text based options including Python and JavaScript. Not only are pupils learning skills that set them apart from the crowd in the technology industry, they are also able to get creative with gaming graphics and interface design. The club runs every Monday lunchtime in ICT2 and all KS3 pupils are welcome.



Maths

NSPCC Number Day Friday 4th February



Reflecting our Christian Values of compassion by contributing donations to the NSPCC; students in years 7, 8 and 9 classes participated in the Number Day activities which included quizzes and puzzles.

The activities were enjoyed by all, and gave our students an insight into the importance of mathematics outside the classroom.

UKMT 2022 Challenge

Our highest performing students in Years 9 and 10 were once again given the opportunity to participate against other students in the UKMT 2022 Challenge.

For over 20 years, the UKMT has been enriching mathematics education and promoting problem solving and collaboration amongst students. We eagerly anticipate the results from this year's entrants.



Saturday Future College

Over 100 Year 11 students attended a Mathematics and Science revision session on Saturday 05th February a clear demonstration of their commitment and determination for success in their Centre Assessment Examinations.

Hegarty Mathematics Support Sessions

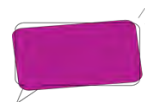
Daily support sessions are offered at lunchtime for any students who need additional support or access to Hegarty Maths.

Analysis of Hegarty Maths show that our students have answered an average of 450 questions each which represents an additional 9 hours of learning since the return to school in September!

Casio Calculators are for sale from the Maths Hub.

Priced at £8 this represents a generous discount from the £14.99 RRP.

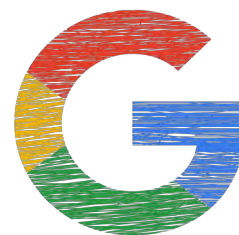
Calculators are an essential part of every students' equipment and this is one of the best models available and will last from years 7 to 11.



The MFL department would like to say a big well done to pupils studying French and Spanish. Pupils have shown outstanding endurance and progress this half term.
¡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

Congratulations to all key stage 3 students that have now completed their assessments this half term. To support their progress, pupils can access a range of key grammar and topic resources via our MFL Google Site. One way Year 8 and 9 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 topic 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 10 and 11 pupils have completed speaking assessments in French and Spanish. Pupils have revised well for these exams and MFL would like to say thank you to Year 10 and 11 for their endurance and commitment to revision. Year 10 and 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.

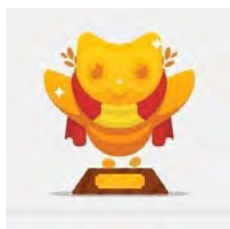




Modern Languages Google Website

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 practicing language skills will make recalling vocabulary a lot easier!

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

PE

Netball

Our Year 7&8 netballers took part in the Wirral Schools Netball tournament at the beginning of February. All pupils showed excellent endurance in what was a very blustery and wet day. Their service to each other and the school was commendable. The Year 7a team came 3rd in their section, 7b team came 5th in their section and the Year 8 team came 4th. Well done girls.

Year 8 played a four-way fixture at Ridge-way, comfortably winning all of their fixtures.

Year 10&11 played in the Wirral schools netball tournament at the beginning of February at Wirral Grammar against all Grammar schools with a wealth of county players. All girls showed excellent endurance and played with grit and determination in every fixture.

Well done to everyone involved.



Performing Arts



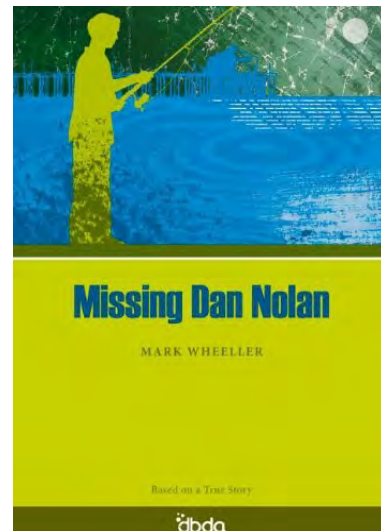
Year 7 Drama

This half-term Year 7 have been working to explore their new learning programme looking at Natural Disasters in the News. Pupils have, so far, focused their attention on the 79AD eruption of Mount Vesuvius and have worked on a combination of devising and script work to bring to life key scenes from what happened during this disaster in the city of Pompeii. Pupils have enjoyed learning about the history of these events and bringing them to life in performance. Well done, Year 7!



Year 8 Drama

This half-term pupils have explored Mark Wheeler's verbatim play *Missing Dan Nolan*. The play documents the true story of fourteen-year-old Daniel Nolan who, whilst out fishing with friends, went missing. Mark Wheeler's unique style of writing has aided pupils' understanding of the play and encouraged them to think about the importance of our Christian Values of compassion and integrity in performance. We are really excited to see how Year 8 will continue with exploration of this play next half-term.



Year 9 Drama

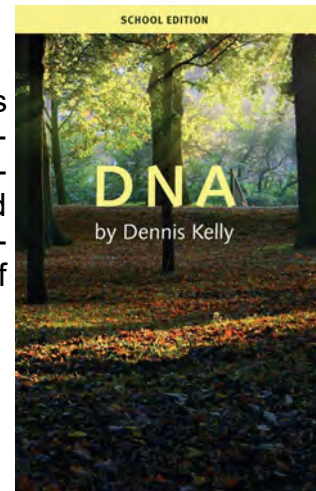
Year 9 have continued to make excellent progress in Drama and this term they're exploring Mark Wheeler's play *Game Over*. The play tells the true story of fourteen-year-old Breck Bednar who was groomed online and killed. Year 9 have been fascinated by the story and understanding the mindset of Breck's killer and have displayed real maturity in their understanding of an incredibly difficult topic. Their compassion has been commendable and we are really pleased with the way in which pupils have understood the message of this play which emphasises the importance of online safety. We are really looking forward to seeing Year 9 further develop their skills with interpreting scripts next half-term.

Performing Arts



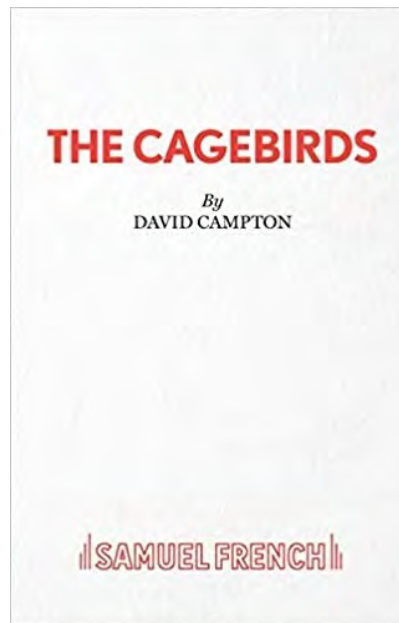
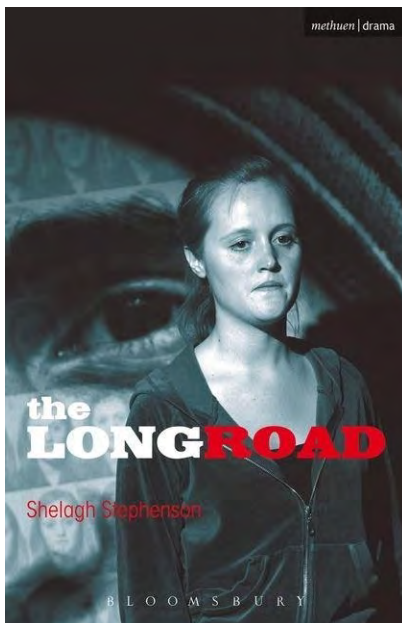
Year 10 Drama

Year 10 have moved onto their study of Dennis Kelly's *DNA*. Pupils have enjoyed exploring the story of bullying and brutality both practically and theoretically. We are incredibly impressed with the performance of pupils in their exams. They have been engaged and committed in all aspects of their work, both practical and theoretical, and we are excited to see what they will come up with next half-term for their devising. Well Done, Year 10!



Year 11 Drama

Year 11 have been working tirelessly this half-term to bring to life their Component 2 extracts ready for the visiting examiner in March. Pupils are, understandably, very nervous about their performances but are working hard to prepare themselves to be ready for their exam. Pupils have learnt monologues or duologues from a range of plays including Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers*, Owen Wylmark's *Find Me* and Mark Wheeler's *Too Much Punch for Judy*. We are really excited to see Year 11's hard-work pay off in their final performances next half-term. Keep it up, Year 11!



Performing Arts



Year 7 Music

Learning Music is similar to learning a new language, and Mr Payne and Mr Fenney are incredibly pleased with the progress that all Year 7 pupils made last term.

During this term pupils have developed the ability to not only read and play rhythms that they had never seen- but also compose their own! They have continued to impress the Music department in their studies, currently focused upon combining pitch and rhythm to create melodies and learning how to read music on the musical stave.

Pupils have been diligent in applying their understanding of rhythm and pitch to reading melodies, and have displayed incredible maturity and potential as they have moved onto exploring the keyboard. We greatly anticipate the way in which our students will apply this knowledge to their musical studies next year when we move into practically exploring different genres of music.



Year 8 and 9



In response to the progress and focused attitude displayed by our Year 8 and 9 pupils last term, the Music Department decided to challenge both year groups further by introducing a completely new instrument: the Ukulele. Pupils have learnt how to play various chords on the Ukulele and how to read a chord chart, a skill which can be easily translated onto other instruments such as the guitar. Students have been using the Ukulele to practically explore the 'Rise of British Rock and Pop, and playing songs as varied as *Let It Be* and *I'm a Believer* to 'Rick-rolling' to *Never Gonna Give You Up*.

In addition to practically exploring styles of pop music between the 1950s to the 1990s students have also been learning about the key features of Pop music and some of the musical milestones along the way. Learning a new instrument is no easy feat and, as always, our pupils have risen to the challenge. We can't wait to see what is in store for our pupils next term!

Performing Arts



Year 10

This half-term after returning from the Christmas break Year 10 have continued to make excellent progress within their BTEC Music course. Continuing to explore and understand a range of musical styles and genres, exploring their prior theoretical knowledge in the lessons and creating some excellent practical work. Mr Payne and Mr Fenney have been particularly impressed with the way Y10 have used a new piece of technology called "Soundtrap" where students can create music from a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). They have covered a wide variety of tricky theoretical topics and styles of music. Year 10 will be moving onto Component 2 upon their return after the February half term looking at roles in the Music industry and personal skills development on their chosen instrument. Well Done Year 10 for your continued hard work!

Year 11

This half-term, Year 11 have returned to lessons with an extremely positive and hard working mindset towards Music. We have been preparing Year 11 for their external examination by completing Component 2 with their personal skills development on their chosen instrument and completing performances to achieve goals they have set for themselves.

In doing this it has allowed Year 11 many practical lessons to explore these areas for development to keep improving as overall performers which will be extremely beneficial going into the final stretch of the school year.

We are extremely proud of the Year group for their commitment during lessons and work outside of lessons utilising Music rooms at break and lunch times to improve on both their practical and theoretical understanding of Music to give themselves the best opportunity in Music in the future. An extremely positive start to the new year for Year 11.

Extra curricular activities

The Music and Drama department have continued to offer a variety of different clubs this half term both during and after school. These clubs include; Guitar club, Keyboard club, Choir and Drama club.

LIPA have also joined us this half-term to run an exciting Rock Band Club! Pupils from across Key Stage Three have been absolutely loving getting involved with playing different instruments and we are really enjoying seeing them develop their skills.

We still continue to offer our Year 10 Music students use of the practice rooms and laptops after school to catch up and complete any work that needs to be completed, or to improve on their chosen instrument. This opportunity will be available to Year 9 students after half-term who will take Music as an option to prepare them as best as possible before starting the course later in the year.

All these extracurricular activities are available to all genders and abilities to enable them to develop their skills in Music and the Arts. All of these clubs have continued to grow in popularity with students across Key stages coming together to enjoy playing, teaching and learning new skills together on various different instruments.

Performing Arts



Moana

Rehearsals for our school's show, Disney's *Moana Jr* are almost complete. Recent rehearsals have seen students working extremely hard with learning dialogue, songs and choreography. Pupils are always ready and excited to perform which shows true professionalism. The show will be taking place at the start of April and tickets will be on sale soon!



Woodchurch Farm

The first half term of Spring is a quiet time on the Farm, as we wait for new life to emerge in the form of spring bulbs, buds on trees and what we hope will be a successful lambing season.

There is still plenty to keep the staff busy, ensuring the paddocks are safe spaces for our animals and protecting all the inhabitants on the Farm from the stormy weather we can experience at this time of year.

Our Year 7 pupils in particular continue to visit and use the Farm space as a learning environment for many of the subjects across the curriculum. This half term, English was a focus through their study unit of "Nature and the Environment". It was a pleasure to welcome English staff and pupils onto the Farm, where they were able to meet some of the animals and learn about how we can care for and protect them.





Citizenship



Archbishop of York Young Leaders

Each year, pupils in Year 8 are given an opportunity to participate in the Archbishop of York Youth Trust Award Scheme. We have run the scheme for a number of years and the majority of our pupils successfully achieve the award. Throughout the year it is hoped that each member of the year group will be involved in a form community challenge. These challenges should make a real difference to the communities and people with whom they have been involved.

Mr McMullan's form group - 8YE - chose to perform a Random Act of Kindness. This Random Act of Kindness involves bringing joy and happiness by giving out Valentine's cards, produced by school, to people in the main shopping area in Birkenhead. Through discussions during form time, pupils identified specific groups of people they wanted to hand the cards to, so it had the most impact.

As part of the award pupils develop skills such as communication, cooperation and teamwork. Furthermore, pupils will also be in a position to develop Christian Values including compassion, humility and trust. In the past this type of challenge has really made a difference to the people in our community and therefore built relationships based upon hope with local residents.





Citizenship



Charity Fundraising

So far this year, XE, XN, XS, XV and XW in years 7-10 have been busy raising money for our nominated Charities this year. The charities

- Cancer Research UK - School's annual charity
- Wirral Wildlife - Birkenhead Rotary's choice
- RNLI - The Mayor's choice
- Meningitis Research Foundation in the name of Luke Brown (former pupil) - Inter-act Choice
- International Justice Mission - St Mary's choice

Form groups have completed cookie sales, 'guess how many sweets are in the jar', cake bakes and different types of raffles, to name a few ideas. Pupils in the named form groups have been encouraged to demonstrate Service and Humility by reaching out and providing much required funds for the nominated charities. It has been wonderful to see how many pupils have been involved so far this year. A special mention to 8XE who raised over £100 during their two week fundraising exploits. Well done 8XE!

Pupils across years 7-10 in form groups XZ and YE will have their chance during Spring 2 and the remaining form groups will be fundraising in the Summer Term. Keep up the good work.



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK



Wirral
Wildlife



IJM



Lifeboats



Meningitis
Research
Foundation

ECO

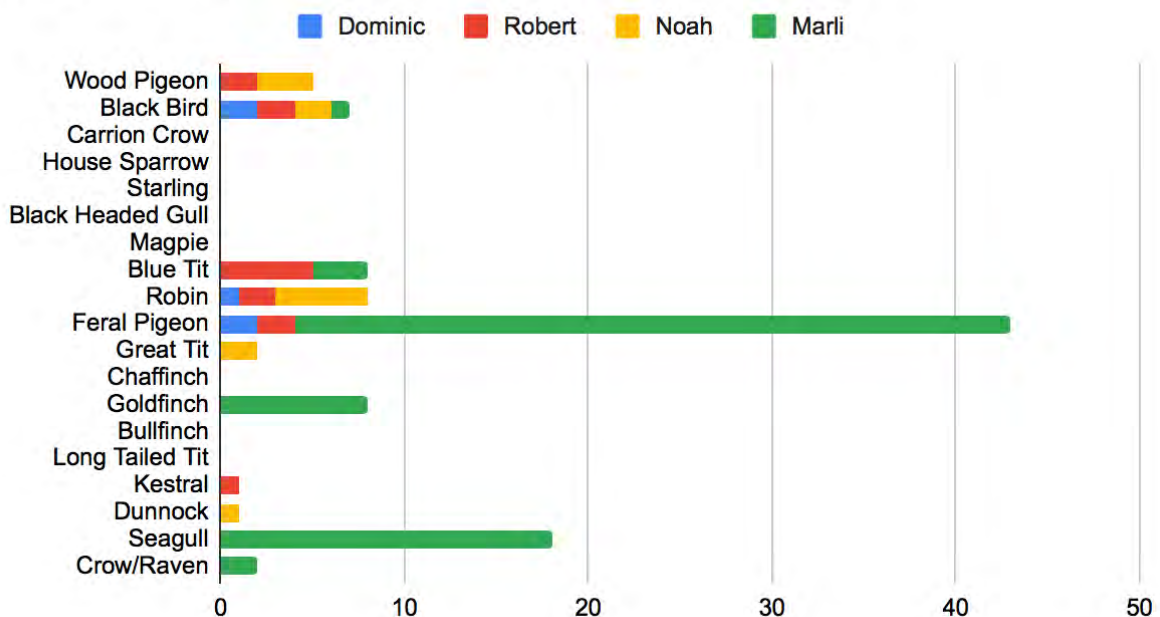
Eco Warriors

Ant & Max from 7XN are the latest pupils to receive the Eco Warrior Badges. The Eco Warrior Badge is awarded to pupils who demonstrate outstanding acts of kindness and contribution towards protecting and helping our environment. Our latest award winners have made a commitment to keeping their designated break out area tidy and litter free during breaks and lunch times. Ant & Max have decided to take the next step in their role as Eco Representatives by filling in application forms to join the Woodchurch High School Eco Committee.

Big Garden Birdwatch

Some of our pupils have participated gathering data for the RSPB'S (Royal Society for the protection of Birds) Big Garden Birdwatch Since the **Big Garden Birdwatch** started in 1979, numbers of many species have been declining and this study 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.

Dominic , Robert , Noah and Marli



Digital Leaders

**Make school a better
place online,
Fill in your application**

RUN BY:
MR. CLARK
DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATIONS
25/2/2022

Discover, Design,
Share.

Become the leader
on everything
Digital:

Only years 7/8/9

email digital.leaders@woodchurchhigh.com



The new year 9 cohort for 2020 has been announced, can all participants complete the enrolment form and bring in the £50 deposit or full £150. Pupils will be given more details after half term once all enrolment forms and deposits have been received.

<https://www.dofe.org/>

The website is a one-stop place for all information about DofE.

Diary Dates

Friday 18th February 2022	School closes to all pupils
Monday 21st February 2022 - Friday 25th February 2022	February Half Term
Monday 28th February 2022	School re-opens to all pupils
w/c 14th March 2022 w/c 21st March 2022	Year 7, 8 and 9 Exams Year 7, 8 and 9 Exams
Monday 4th April 2022 Tuesday 5th April 2022 Wednesday 6th April 2022	School Production—Moana School Production—Moana School Production—Moana
Friday 8th April 2022	School closes to all pupils
Monday 11th April 2022 - Friday 22nd April 2022	Easter Break
Monday 25th April 2022	School re-opens to all pupils