

## Newsletter - December 2022

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

### Message from Ms Phillips

*Isaiah 9:6-7*

We were pleased to welcome Rev Alec Ham from St Mary's Church Upton and Rev Christine Broad from Holy Cross Church Woodchurch to our Christmas Assemblies on Tuesday 20th December. The message of the Assemblies was "Christmas in Three Words—Historical, Joyful, Essential" and this was underpinned by December's Collective Worship in Form Time and Assemblies.

Pastoral Teams led celebration assemblies on Wednesday 21st December, remembering and giving thanks for their educational opportunities provided throughout the first term of the academic year. Pastoral Leaders were delighted to share success stories with their whole year group.

As we come to the end of our first term we wish all of our families a restful festive period, and look forward to welcoming all children back into school on **Thursday 5th January 2023**.



We are very grateful for the gift of a Christmas tree from one of our parents.

Both the tree and the surrounding area have been decorated with a series of angels. The angels have personal message of hope, gratitude, remembrance and love from pupils and staff. These words represent every member of our community and are currently on display in the school foyer, symbolising the life of our school.

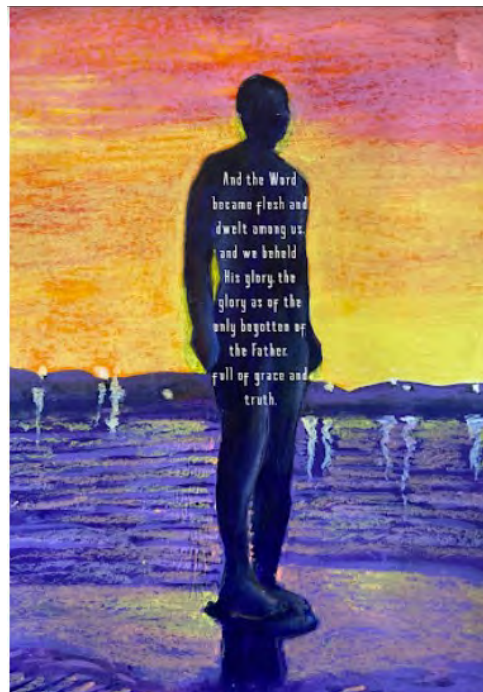
Our Christmas Card this year, with artwork by Zoe Arnold in Year 11, was inspired by our 'Figures of Hope' and Antony Gormley's 'Another Place' installation. The verse was from John 1:14 *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth".*

Year 8 pupils and staff distributed cards in the Birkenhead area as part of school's "Random Act of Kindness" campaign. Members of the public were very pleased to receive the cards and sent messages to school to thank the pupils:

*"We would like to sincerely thank the pupils of the Woodchurch High School who presented my wife and I with a beautifully crafted Christmas card at Grange Road shopping centre yesterday.*

*In this particularly bleak midwinter these young people represented your school impeccably, and more to the point brought a smile to our faces."*

*"I have just received one of your school Christmas cards which were being distributed in Birkenhead town centre by your lovely pupils and staff. This is such a wonderful thing to do and certainly brought some festive cheer. I work in a local primary school and can appreciate what a busy time of year this is for your staff. Thank you."*



# Farm News

Last week we hosted the annual Farm Christmas Fair. The Fair is an important fundraiser for the school farm but over the years it has also become a heart-warming community event. This year we had our biggest turnout ever with over 450 people attending the Fair and 120 children who visited Father Christmas and his elves in the Farm Grotto.

This year we were grateful to receive sponsorship from Magenta Living to run the event, which meant everyone got free entry to the Fair and every child received a free gift from Father Christmas. The sponsorship also meant we were able to keep the cost of refreshments and food the same as previous years. This was Magenta Living's Christmas gift to the local community.

It takes a lot of generosity of spirit to run the Farm Christmas Fair and this year it was in abundance. We received so many generous donations from the parents and carers of our children. We also received many donations from the school staff and 34 members of staff volunteered their time to help run the event.

This was the 10th Farm Christmas Fair. The first was in 2011 and was held outside on the Farm - and it raised £350. This year you have helped us raise -

**£3,185.34**

Thank you for your continued support of the School Farm.  
We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

From all on Woodchurch High School Farm





# Chaplaincy

As we approach Christmas, we reflect on what we have looked at in our Collective Worship this half term, and the wonderful things that have taken place. In November, our Christian Value focus was Compassion – in the Bible, in the second letter to the Corinthians, it says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” When we live out this Christian Value, we follow the example that God has shown to us; God is compassionate, he cares, he responds and he brings us comfort no matter what we are going through.

In November, we lived out the Christian Value of compassion through our Harvest Collection when items were collected for CAP Wirral. Christians Against Poverty work with people who are struggling with debt, and our harvest donations enabled the CAP team to put together over 40 Christmas Hampers, which were gratefully received by their clients and their families.

Our school Christian Value focus for December has been Thankfulness. We live at a time where we are continuously told that we need stuff to be happy; especially as we approach Christmas. Of course, it's important to be grateful for the things we have and the people who work hard so that we can enjoy them, but we should also remember that we have a lot to be thankful for that doesn't come from a store, that can't be bought or downloaded. In the Bible, in the first letter to the Thessalonians, the reader is encouraged to “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.” Because even when things are tough, there is always *something* we can be thankful for – for example friends, encouragers, people who care for us, Jesus, and faith.

This Christmas, our prayer is that you will have plenty of things to be thankful for. We pray that you have a happy and blessed Christmas, that you will remember that the reason we celebrate this season is because God loved us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to be a Saviour for us all.



# ECAD

## New Ground Workshop

A group of Year 7 children took part in their first New Ground Workshop on 4th December.

Pupils firstly worked outside with Mr Yarranton to try and make their own fires and were very successful!

They then worked hard to make a range of snowman Christmas cupcakes. They made buttercream and piped it onto cupcakes, then decorated them with mini-snowmen.

Lastly pupils did an interactive World Cup themed Maths session with Mr Roberts. All of the children had a great morning and were extremely well behaved.



Key Stage 3 pupils have been making a selection of delicious decorated biscuits over the past two weeks. They have been extremely creative and enjoyed making, and eating them!

Key Stage 4 pupils have been enjoying making Christmas Crinkle biscuits this week. All of our Year 10s practised their pastry making skills and made some traditional mince pies.

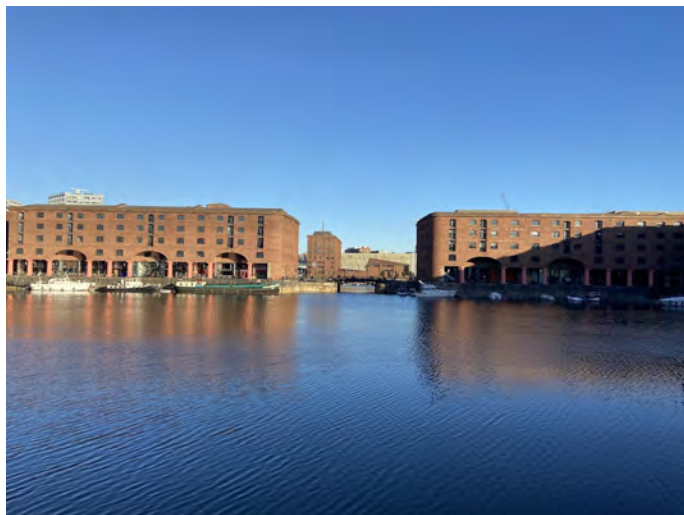


# ECAD

## Art Graphics Trip to Liverpool

The year 11 Graphic pupils went to Liverpool to take a range of photos of the architecture that Liverpool has to offer. We were blessed with glorious weather, albeit cold, but there was barely a cloud in the sky and the sun shining on the old and new buildings really enabled the pupils to take some outstanding photos.

Upon return to the classroom the pupils are beginning to manipulate these images in the style of their chosen double exposure artists.





# ECAD

## Flower Making with Ling Warlow

Eco Committee members and Year 8 Art Ambassadors were given a flourishing opportunity to learn paper sculpting skills and contribute to a Schools/Community project with Botanist/Sculptor Ling Warlow. Ling's artwork and practice is inspired by the natural environment and British wildflowers. The pupils were taught how to make paper buttercups and details of the exhibition of theirs along with other Wirral Schools' contributions will be announced soon. Some pupils made a bunch of buttercups to showcase their work to their parents. All participants were excellent ambassadors for our Christian Values.



# 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 also started to explore descriptive writing in preparation for their next assessment after Christmas. Students have begun using figurative language techniques in their writing along with other techniques such as show not tell and the five senses.

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 Subject Site](https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/year-7/oliver-twist)

<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/year-7/oliver-twist>



# English

## Year 8



This term, Year 8 have been studying *The Woman in Black*, exploring Gothic conventions as well as how writing techniques such as pathetic fallacy (how the weather reflects the mood of the character) and similes (comparisons using 'like' or 'as') have been used by Susan Hill to help develop tension in her story.

Moving on from their commendable assessments in which pupils identified how tension is used by the author to describe the woman in black, students have begun looking towards narrative structures, and how pupils can utilise a variety of different openings and endings to

Following the Christmas break, Year 8 will be undertaking their creative writing assessment. Focus is emphasised on how well individuals can construct an engaging narrative including the use of SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar). With this in mind, it would be extremely beneficial for the pupils to embrace reading for pleasure over the winter holidays as a means to learn new vocabulary, develop a wider awareness of a variety of narrative structures and to help them formulate ideas for their assessments.

This term, students have also been fortunate to take part in our new reading lessons. Here, form classes are provided with a range of books targeted towards teenage audiences, each form with a different story (*The Shark Caller*, *The Light in Everything*, *October October*, *SMART*). Year 8 have welcomed and enjoyed the new lessons, responding positively to open and informed classroom discussions and the new format.

In preparation for their upcoming assessments, students should be directed towards the Subject Site. The school's website offers consistently updated advice and clarification on the expectations for assessments and self-reflection. Pupils should also speak with their class teachers to access further support or direction in preparation for their assessments.

English Subject Site  
<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/year-8/the-woman-in-black>



# English

## Year 9

This half term, students in Year 9 have consolidated their studies of our American novels 'Of Mice and Men' and 'To Kill A Mockingbird'. They have demonstrated a clear understanding of issues that affected society in 1930s America, such as racism, the Great Depression and gender restrictions, and used this key knowledge to analyse how the writers crafted characters, settings and themes. This has been supported by their MIMO sessions in which students engaged fantastically well and had their new knowledge tested in subsequent lessons by their class teachers.

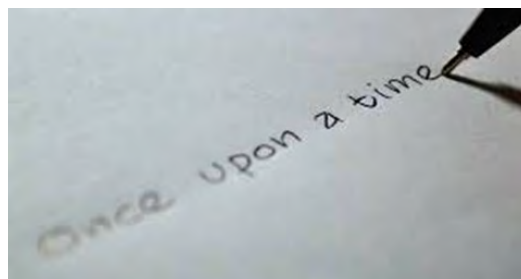


Students are now in the midst of studying a variety of war poems, examining how different writers portray both the act of the war and the consequences of war. To challenge themselves, our Year 9 students have been exploring how poems are written to serve different purposes, drawing upon their History knowledge to analyse the dangers of propaganda or the brutal reality of conflict. In preparation for their assessment in January, students have then been transforming this knowledge into pieces of creative writing, studying how to construct an effective narrative. We have had some excellent examples of pupils' work written so far. They have successfully managed to build their own characters, setting and plot, tying this all together with the additional finesse of including ambitious vocabulary, literary devices and structural techniques.

We are really proud of the progress that students in Year 9 have made this half term. To continue this brilliant progress, during the Christmas break, our Year 9 students should ensure that they are revising the key skills needed to write an effective short narrative, synthesising their new knowledge taught to them by class teachers and the tools and resources available to them on the English Subject Sites. They should practise writing for a variety of genres and titles, making sure that they are as equipped as possible to show off their talents.

English Subject Site

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



# English

## Year 10

This half term, Year 10 have been developing their essay skills in preparation for their Centre Assessed Examinations on the 9th of January. In particular, Year 10 students have been practising their memory of quotations both in homework tasks and at the start of every lesson, with some beautiful revision resources and essays being produced as a result! By now, most students are approaching the end of the play, having scrutinised Macbeth's mind "full of scorpions", and read on in horror as Lady Macbeth never did scrub that "damned spot" of blood from her hands.

For all Year 10 pupils, it has been crucial that they practise responding to an extract based question as well as a whole-play essay, as this is precisely what they will be doing in the examination on the 9th of January. Specific to this, Year 10 have worked incredibly hard to pick apart Shakespeare's language through keyword deep dives - a skill that helps adults and children alike to understand the complexity of the English playwright. Many students have also studied and been enthralled by the Witch Hunt craze of the Jacobean period, the fixation with 'the great chain of being', and King James' own fascinating book on everything from corpse medicine to devils' whispering in the ears of corrupted women!

On a final note, it is imperative that over the Christmas break students use the essay plans and essay feedback provided by their class teachers to create key character quotation flashcards, key theme concept maps, and even practise improving some of their extract-specific responses from the start of the year. This will enable pupils to see just how far they have progressed, and how knowledgeable they have become. Pupils can purchase revision guides from Miss Barney to help with Macbeth revision in advance of their exams for £2.85 each. Please peruse the English subject site for any further information that may be required for revision.

English Subject Site

*Macbeth:*

<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/ks4/english-literature/macbeth>





# English

## Year 11

As Year 11 round up their final Winter term at WHS, they are working harder than ever to secure their skills and knowledge in preparation for their upcoming GCSE exams. Pupils are consistently working on both Language and Literature practise exams to make sure they feel confident for their exams and develop the skills that will set them apart in their later lives.

It is key that pupils are settling into a revision routine that will allow them enough time to learn the knowledge they will need, especially when it comes to Literature. Pupils need a secure knowledge of key quotes, storylines and themes for each text and poem. There is a wealth of resources pupils can access on the English Subject Site, linked below, including video lessons, learning guides and PLCs (mark schemes). We also recommend pupils make effective use of the WHS Big 4 independent study strategies to aid their revision: flashcards, mnemonics, condensed notes and concept maps.



Practice is also always the key to success. As a department, we recommend consistent practice of each exam question across both Literature and Language, in timed conditions. The strict time constraints of each exam can often be a pupil's downfall so practising the exams can reduce this issue.

One of the most valuable practices we regularly recommend to Year 11 pupils who wish to succeed in their Language examinations is to read for pleasure and to read often. Studies have proven that reading for pleasure is one of the most effective ways to develop vocabulary as well as helping pupils generate ideas and experience new things that will inform both their reading and writing.

English Subject Site

<https://sites.google.com/woodchurchhigh.com/english/years-10-and-11>

# English

## The Frank Moran Young Writers Award

The Frank Moran Young Writers Award is a writing competition open to young people in the North West who are passionate about creative writing. The award is open to all young people who will be **between the ages of 16 and 19** on the 8th January 2023 and application forms are available from the English Staff Base upon request.

Writers are invited to submit an example of some 1,000 – 1,200 words of original prose which can be in the form of a short story, a travel essay or something about which they feel passionate. It may be serious or amusing. What the judges are looking for is an example of their work which they are proud to have written. Entries can be submitted via the website, [www.theathenaeum.org.uk](http://www.theathenaeum.org.uk). Electronic copies must be sent as PDF or Word files, written in size 12, Times New Roman font.

Applications should be submitted by the deadline on 8th January 2023. Prizes include £1,000 grand prize, £100 for the school library to purchase new books, designation as Writer-in-Residence for a year, and possible publication of the winning piece in the *Liverpool Echo*.

# Humanities



**Year 11** have their centre bases assessment coming up in January, they will be sitting a full Paper 1 Physical Geography and Paper 2 Human Geography. Pupils should use the subject sites to fully prepare for these important exams by using the WHS big 4 revision strategies.

[Geography GCSE subject site](#)

**Year 10** have been studying tectonic hazards, they have looked at volcanic eruptions, the impacts of earthquakes, how to manage them and the benefits of living with these natural hazards. They have also started to apply their learning to different style exam questions.



**Year 9** have started a new unit on the Middle East looking at perceptions versus reality. So far they have learnt where the middle east is and why it is called the middle east. We have looked at the controversies around Qatar hosting the World Cup such as LGBTQ+ rights and migrant workers.



**Year 8** have just finished studying China and have looked at issues such as the one child policy, workers' rights (using the Iphone factory and the Shein fashion brand), the three gorges dam and "Is China a super-power?"



**Year 7** have started one world seven continents inspired by the David Attenborough series which can be found here ( [BBC](#)). In this the pupils will apply the skills gained in the last unit to learn about how each continent is unique and what are the major issues facing it and apply their problem solving skills to tackle issues such as immigration from Mexico to USA, the trans Amazonian highway and Tourism in Antarctica.



**Year 11** have made a positive start to the year following an assessment on Weimar and Nazi Germany. Students have now moved onto their final GCSE topic on the Development of the USA, looking at the impact of the Depression and moving on to Civil Rights and the Cold War.

Our Friday afternoon intervention sessions have started for selected pupils, providing extra support and knowledge on the Elizabethan England topic. Please encourage your child to continue to attend if invited by their class teachers as this is invaluable extra support for their upcoming Centre Assessed Exams and their final GCSE's. The year will be sitting two exams in the New Year on the topics of Elizabethan England, Health and Medicine and Weimar and Nazi Germany. Please ensure pupils are actively revising at home and accessing the subject site for information on the Woodchurch Big Four and revision materials.



**Year 10** are continuing with their fantastic efforts in history and are nearing the end of their first topic on Elizabethan England. In the New Year we will be moving on to Superpower Relations and the Cold War, which will be an exciting new part of history for them to explore. Centre Assessed Exams are approaching and your child will be sitting a full paper on Elizabethan England. Please encourage them to access the Subject Site to familiarise themselves with the Woodchurch Big Four revision strategies as well as materials to support their independent study.

**Year 9** have now finished their topic on the British Empire and have displayed confidence in being able to argue if the Empire should be a source of national pride. They have made some excellent contributions in class showing a good understanding of this topic. We now look forward to moving onto the Industrial Revolution and then World War One. As Options are approaching, we encourage you to have discussions with your child and for them to come and speak to any member of the History department for further information on what we study at GCSE.

**Year 8** have finished their study on the Tudor period, looking at whether it can be described as a religious rollercoaster. Pupils are now moving onto the Elizabethans and their exploits overseas. We have seen some fantastic knowledge on this topic already, and pupils are keen to get started. Let's keep up this great enthusiasm after Christmas.

**Year 7** have finished their topic on the Norman invasion of 1066 and are now busy investigating whether the Normans brought a "truckload of trouble". They have been analysing William's methods of control, such as the building of Motte and Bailey castles, the Domesday Book and the Harrying of the North (some have even witnessed his sheer cruelty through a live-action replay in class!). Some students have also been busy creating their own Motte and Bailey castles for Mrs Lewis' castle competition. We wish all students taking part the best of luck!

# Humanities



**Year 11** have taken on the responsibilities of their final year incredibly well, and are now heavily focusing on revision in preparation for the Centre Assessed Exams that begin on 9th January. These exams will involve two papers; Christianity and Philosophy and Ethics. The Subject Site is an excellent resource to be used in preparation for this, and their primary focus over the Christmas period should be producing revision materials using the recorded lessons and notes available.

**Year 10** have made a great start to their GCSE course, and are in the process of completing their second module of work from the Philosophy and Ethics unit; Life and Death. Pupils have shown a keen interest in discussing 'Big Questions' from this course, which has included beliefs about abortion, euthanasia, and animal rights. They are now prepared for their Centre Assessed Exams which start on 9th January, and will cover the Relationships and Life and Death units. Pupils can prepare for these by producing Woodchurch Big 4 revision resources using the Subject Site.

**Year 9** have been exploring some big questions about Animal rights this half term- does a human life have more value than an animal? Should animals have rights? In what circumstances is animal testing acceptable? We have also been engaging with the work of Sir David Attenborough and looking at the impact humans have had on our planet. Our Subject Site is an excellent resource for pupils to secure and deepen their understanding over the Christmas period.

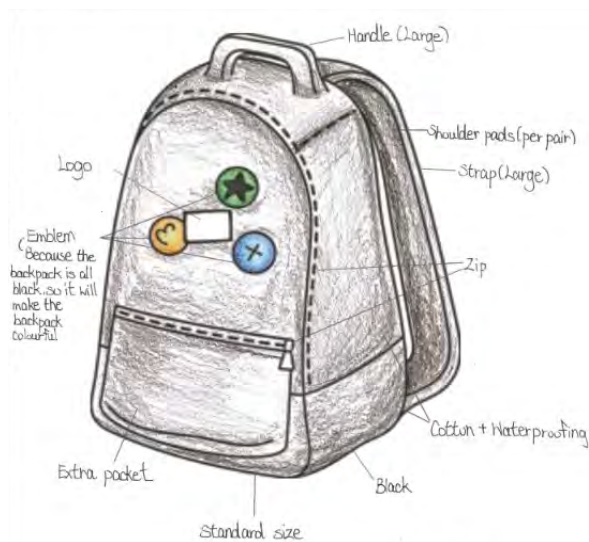
**Year 8** have been continuing to look at examples of Christians around the world who have put their faith into action in inspiring ways. We have explored how Oscar Romero stood up to injustice in El Salvador, and the work of Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India. Pupils have been able to ask thoughtful questions and make connections with our Christian values

**Year 7** have been learning about Christianity: what Christians believe and how they practise their faith. Pupils have explored where and why a Christian might go on Pilgrimage, how they Celebrate festivals and what they believe about life after death. After Christmas we will be exploring the life of Jesus, seeing how his actions and character still inspire Christians around the world today.

# ICT & Business

## Year 10 - Cambridge Nationals Business

Pupils are currently working on their coursework, which requires them to research, design and then price up the cost of designing a new backpack. They have already identified who their target customer is and have completed some market research to help with designing their bag. Below are some of the designs that they have already put together, which they will now get feedback on before coming up with a final design. After Christmas, pupils will need to cost up their bag and work out how much profit or loss they will make during their first year. All skills relevant to the real world which will help us in 'Developing Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs'



### Design 2





# ICT & Business

For the newsletter this month, I have included information about 2 different apps that you might find useful to help support your child with any new electronic devices and games that they might get over the Christmas period:

1. 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.

2. 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 at my email address below.

Mr Bunby—Curriculum Leader for Computing & Business  
[adam.bunby@woodchurchhigh.com](mailto:adam.bunby@woodchurchhigh.com)



# 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.

## 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.bbfc.co.uk](http://www.bbfc.co.uk)

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



**National  
Online  
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







# 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 "shttp". 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/87/online-shopping/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.12.2020





Sparx Maths was launched with great success at the beginning of the academic year.

Since then, we have had numerous successes on this platform that supports the learning of every pupil at Woodchurch High School.

Sparx XP points are automatically allocated to every pupil who completes their homework - between 240 and 420 points.

Further points are awarded for any additional Independent Learning from 135 to 405 XP points.

Since September 1,412 compulsory homeworks have been set and completed by Woodchurch High School pupils - almost one for every pupil in the school.

The following pupils have had particular success with Sparx

Hazel Lam over 180,000 Sparx XP points

Pak Hei over 92,000 Sparx XP points

Nathaniel Lueng over 69,000 Sparx XP points

Rhys Shek over 44,000 Sparx XP points

Mia-Elise Williams over 27,000 Sparx XP points

All of these pupils have been recognised by the Mathematics department for their hard work and awarded lapel pins.

A larger number of pupils were celebrated for demonstrating G8 - remaining focussed and determined to make good choices, being thankful for the opportunities and allowing their light to shine for their weekly successful homework completion.

### Maths Homework Support Sessions

This is the timetable for all the homework support sessions throughout the week. You should take advantage of these opportunities if you are struggling with your homework or unable to complete it at home.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch (12.30-1.00)	Miss Arrowsmith & Miss Lake M3	Mr D Roberts Mrs France & Mr Barnett TT2 & M3	Miss Jones & Mrs Davies M3	Mr D Roberts & Mr J Roberts TT2 & M3	Mr Lawson, Mr Perkins & Mr Raggett TT2 & M3
After School (3.20-3.50)	Miss Schofield & Miss Anderton TT2		Miss Horsewood M3		Mr Bell M3

# Maths

## University of Liverpool Year 11 Go Further STEM Event.

15 of our Year 11 students attended the University of Liverpool Maths School STEM event. It is designed to show the options available, in the North West, for students to continue onto higher education opportunities involving STEM subjects.

Activities they experienced on the day included:

- taster sessions for A level Maths, Computer Science and Physics
- a tour of the university campus
- talks about university applications and finance
- talks on the range of STEM based degrees on offer and the career paths they can lead to
- met with current and former students from the Maths School

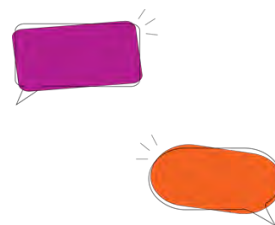
The students really enjoyed the day and it was a great end to a very busy term.

The University's Maths School is the perfect environment for talented sixth formers to open their minds to new challenges. Students learn and thrive together following their stimulating academic curriculum centred on A-level Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science and Physics.

They prepare the students thoroughly and comprehensively for STEM degrees and significant roles both within local communities and the global community of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, their students are then equipped to become tomorrow's industrial and academic researchers, innovators who will address the world's greatest challenges.



<https://liverpoolmathsschool.org>



## **iFelicidades!**

The MFL department would like to say a big thank you to pupils studying French and Spanish. Pupils have made a fantastic start in their commitment to learning so far 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.



### **Year 7 and 8 Listening and Reading assessment**

Year 7 and 8 have just completed their Listening and Reading assessments. The assessments showed that pupils have committed to revising for their exams with Endurance. Well done Year 7 and 8, keep up the good work!

### **Year 9 assessments**

Year 9 have just completed their listening, reading, translation and writing assessments. Pupils have shown their Wisdom during the assessments and have acted on feedback from the exams. Well done Year 9 thank you for your commitment to revision!

### **Year 10 Speaking Assessments**

Year 10 have now completed their Speaking assessments and have acted on feedback. These assessments have highlighted the progress that Year 10 have made since September and are evidence of their commitment to learning. Well done Year 10 on showing incredible Endurance and Wisdom.

### **Year 11 Reading, Listening and Writing Assessment**

Year 11 students are in the process of completing their reading, listening and writing assessments. We encourage year 11 to continue their revision on the MFL subjects sites.

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

## Linguists of the Month

### Year 7

Jacob Thorning  
Cordelia Gleeson  
Finnley Mcewan  
Lilith Shawcross  
Lacey McMahon  
Finlie Bell  
Oran McLachlan  
Jack Parke

### Year 8

Leighton Rimmer  
Joshua Ford  
Melisa Ryan  
Daisy Karlsen  
Scarlett Ogden  
Ben Hickson-Evans  
Chloe Dahoma  
Noah Bennett

### Year 9

Joe Roberts  
Evie Griffin  
Olivia Fishwick  
Evie-Mai Kelly

### Year 10

Gabriel Nabong  
Freddy Cuestas  
Karla Hughes  
Megan O'Connell  
Ellie Davis  
Ella Parry  
Lexi Hayes

### Year 11

Matthew Jones  
Katie Croft  
Evelyn Kelly  
Aiden Maloney

## Open Evening

Thank you to all of the Students who helped out with Open Evening earlier in the term.

An extra special thanks to the pupils who taught Cantonese to the year 5 and 6 pupils.





# MFL

Pupils should now have a login for Languagenut, which is an exciting, interactive resource, currently being used in MFL.

Languagenut supports both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils with secondary language level learning and preparation for exams in both French and Spanish, covering all four key skills. We are encouraging all pupils to log on to Languagenut to enhance their learning and also to take part in the World Language competition, competing for points against not only other schools around the world but also with their fellow classmates.

## Top 10 Languagenut Students

1. Abigail Richmond
2. Tara Clerkin
3. Aimee Dennis
4. Jake Mcdowell
5. Gabriel Nabong
6. Thomas Jones
7. Hannah Thompson
8. Hui Shek
9. Aaron Graham-Comber
10. Finlie Bell



### Year 7 Spanish Music Club

Ms Burns and Miss Swan are running a weekly, Year 7 Spanish Music Club on Wednesday lunch time in MFL 2.

### Year 7 Homework Club

Do you need support with your MFL homework? Mrs Bentley is running a Year 7 Homework Club, every Tuesday lunch time in MFL 5.

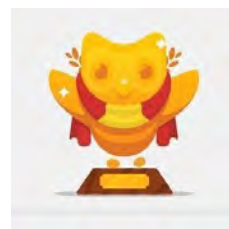


### Modern Languages Subject Site

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

Our SEND and additional needs pupils have had a very successful first term back at school when it has come to sporting tournaments, some teams have even managed to reach regional finals in the new year. There have been plenty of medals and certificates and they have all provided great service to Woodchurch High School with the way they have competed with great integrity, humility and endurance against anyone they have come up against. We are very much looking forward to continuing in the same vein in 2023. Well done everyone!



On Tuesday 15th November we held our first Celebration Event to recognise the successes that our pupils have achieved representing Everton FC in the PAN disability football league. The children have had a fantastic first season in the league against Manchester United, Manchester City, Liverpool and Oldham. In the first season the team finished respectably, winning the majority of their games and also picking the season award for "fair play". The pupils are currently 3 games into their second season, and currently top of the league with an unbeaten run.

Alongside their excellent team and playing efforts, they have an excellent team rapport and team bond. On the pitch, the children show humility in the manner in which they conduct themselves, and are excellent role models for fellow pupils, setting a high standard for others to follow. On the evening the following pupils picked up the below awards for the season:

Players' player of the year - Kiele Hopwood  
Manager's player of the year - Callum McCarthy  
Most improved player - Max Connolly  
Manager of the year - Dylan Murray



The squad representing Everton FC PAN disability team is:

Callum McCarthy  
Kiele Hopwood  
Max Connolly  
Ben Clayton  
Shea Newton  
Chris Jones  
Joe O'Neil  
Leon Taitt  
Finlay Whitehead  
Cieron Redgrift  
Dylan Murray

# PE

The Year 7, 8 and 9 netballers have taken part in a series of mini tournaments over the past few weeks. All have been excellent sporting ambassadors for the school. Well Done.

Year 9 also took part in the Merseyside Schools Netball Tournament and played against a number of National teams. They played with grit and determination. Well done girls.

Year 10 OCR groups have been out to the Boulder Hut and The National Cycling Arena as part of their Outdoor Adventure Activities unit of work. All were excellent ambassadors for the school.





# PE

Jack Caldicott, 11XN, recently attended the European Championships in Athens. He was the youngest in his category up to the age of 18, and secured 3rd place out of 12 athletes for Taolu Mixed Martial Arts. What a fantastic achievement – the PE Department are very proud of him.



Some of our Year 11 girls recently visited Liverpool John Moores University to work with undergraduate trainee teachers. The trip was very successful and several girls are now considering this as a post-18 Option.

The Year 10 & 11 OCR groups took a trip to the National Indoor Cycling centre for a BMX activity as part of their coursework.



# Performing Arts



## Year 7 Drama

This half-term Year 7 have been continuing with their exploration of the history of theatre, looking at different styles and genres! Pupils have moved through from where theatre began in Ancient Greece, exploring different styles such as Slapstick, Shakespearean theatre and Commedia Dell'Arte. The last few weeks have seen Year 7 develop their own Christmas pantomimes - using key features such as direct address and exaggeration to make their audiences laugh! Well done, Year 7!



## Year 8 Drama

This half-term pupils have continued exploring the idea of Horror in performance! They have built on all of the skills developed in the first half-term, focusing on tension in performance, to bring to life some theatre in the style of Artaud. Artaud was a French theatre practitioner who developed a unique style of theatre- his aim was to terrify his audiences! Year 8 have risen to the challenge of creating their own spooky scripts and have worked really hard to bring these ideas to life in performance.

## Year 9 Drama

Year 9 have continued to explore different stimuli this half-term to develop their own individual pieces of performance based on War and Conflict. We are really proud of the mature way Year 9 have handled certain topics, including 9/11, World War I and II and we have really enjoyed watching their unique interpretations of these ideas in performance. We can't wait to see what Year 9 come up with when they start script work in the new year! Well done, Year 9!

# Performing Arts



## Year 10 Drama

Year 10 have continued to work tirelessly this half-term, studying their set text, Dennis Kelly's *DNA*. Pupils have been considering the text from both a practical and theoretical angle and we are so proud of the maturity they have shown when dealing with the challenging themes of the play. Pupils are currently working on developing key characterisation techniques to bring different characters to life and we can't wait to see their final performance in February. Keep up the hard work, Year 10!



## Year 11 Drama

Year 11 have been working incredibly hard this term to prepare for both their Component 2 and Component 3 examinations! Pupils are working on their individual play scripts bringing to life key characters from a range of different texts, developing key characterisation skills to create believable characters! We can't wait to see them perform for their final exam in March! We're reminding any Year 10 or 11 Drama pupils that haven't got their tickets to join us to watch *Inspector Calls* in March to get them soon - we can't wait to watch this classic performance on stage!



# Performing Arts



## Year 7 Music

Our Year 7 cohort have made excellent progress in their ability to read rhythmic notation. In doing this they have exemplified our Christian Values, showing endurance through accurately applying their theory to practical activities and being thankful for the opportunity to use the percussion instruments! Over the holidays, students should use the resources on the Music Subject site to consolidate their learning so far. Their hard work will be rewarded after Christmas when they can combine rhythm and pitch to play different songs on the keyboards.

## Year 8 Music

The focus in our lessons this half-term has been on exploring catchy, yet repetitive, musical riffs. Students have been challenged by not only using both hands on the keyboard, but also through the addition of the black keys on the keyboard! The Blues topic has seen great progress in how quickly our students can pick up new music and skills: something which will come in use next half term when they learn how to play the Ukulele! Well Done Year 8.

## Year 9

Following on from our topic on EDM Year 9 have travelled through time, from the Sugarhill Gang to Stormzy, as they explored the origin and development of Rap Music while considering our big thinking question: 'How can different styles of rap maintain their identity?'. However, our studies last term showed students that there is more to Music than simply performing a song. This term gave students opportunity to write, and perform, their own raps along to a backing track of their own creation. Mr Payne and Mr Fenney are looking forward to developing their performance and keyboard skills further through their next topic after the holidays.





# Performing Arts



## Year 10 Music

Year 10 have begun to look into their first genre of Music in the 50/60s period. They are currently undertaking research within this genre to understand it and be able to perform it. They are looking at the use of live audio recording and how songs within the 50s/60s British invasion period are simple and repetitive, so they have explored how to cover some songs by The Beatles and started to create their own compositions in this style. After Christmas we will be moving onto our disco topic for the 70s and 80s and further extending the pupils' knowledge. Year 10 have continued to demonstrate their wisdom and endurance during Music lessons and the Music department could not be happier with the progress being made. Mr Fenney

## Year 11 Music

This half term Year 11 have been finishing off their second component out of three for their course. Students have been developing their skills as performers, composers and producers of Music to enhance their skills further and prepare themselves for their final component. There has been some outstanding Musical work produced. One specific shout out goes to Cole Ormond-Parkes for his outstanding composition that he created within his own time. It was a brilliant example of how time management and self discipline can be applied to create a musical product, so well done Cole.

Year 11 will be moving onto component 3 which will be to respond to a commercial music brief. Year 11 have worked tirelessly inside and outside of lessons to improve their practical and theoretical skills and the Music department cannot wait to see the material produced by 11 towards the end of this academic year. Mr Fenney

## Extra Curricular

Extracurricular clubs have continued to be well attended this half-term! Music club runs on Monday and Wednesday lunch times allowing students of all year groups to come into Music to practise and learn instruments they have looked at in lesson time or their own individual instruments to develop their skills and understanding.



**Choir** is still running on Thursdays after school and the Performing Arts Curriculum Area is very keen to welcome some new members, especially Year 7 pupils. In choir we sing and learn a wide variety of songs from different genres of Music, so there is always a song for everyone to enjoy singing - we can't wait to sing in our Christmas assemblies later this half-term!

# Performing Arts



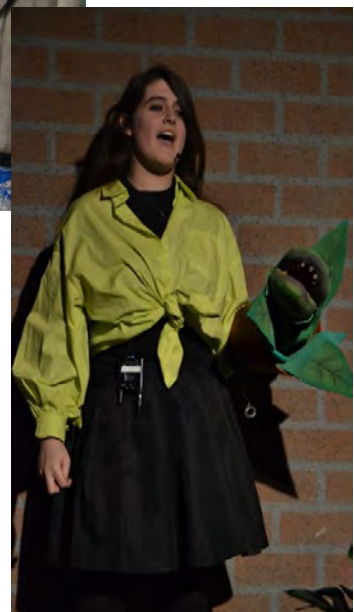
## LIPA Music Production Sessions

A select group of students have been taking part in Music production sessions after school with help from LIPA (Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts). This exciting opportunity has allowed students to understand how Music can be produced and manipulated in order to create a unique sound on a Digital Audio Workstation (DAW). The students have extended on skills and knowledge picked up in lessons to create some excellent pieces of Music.



## Little Shop of Horrors

Pupils have worked so hard during the last few months to stage our school production of Little Shop of Horrors! Pupils performed across three evenings earlier this month and audiences were full of praise for their performing abilities. We are so proud of pupils for making the most of their gifts and talents and letting their lights shine and would like to congratulate all of the cast and backstage crew on their hard work! We can't wait for our next event, later this academic year!





# Citizenship



We were delighted to accept an invitation to Birkenhead Rotary Club this half term to discuss our charity work over the last twelve months.

Alice Grievson and Charlie Volan presented their Archbishop of York journey to the Club and explained how their year group raised over £4,000. We were also happy to meet Mr Steven Ross from Wirral Wildlife Group who was extremely thankful to accept £2,000 from Woodchurch High School. Mr Ross explained how the money was going to be used to help with the conservation of low lying grasslands in Wirral and how this will support the preservation of natural habitats for a number of different animal species.

We look forward to working with Birkenhead Rotary Club and supporting their nominated charity during this academic year.





# Diary Dates

Wednesday 21st December 2022

School closes at 2.00 pm

Thursday 22nd December 2022—  
Wednesday 4th January 2023

Christmas Holidays

Thursday 5th January 2023

All pupils return to school

Tuesday 7th February 2023

Year 9 Options Taster Evening

w/c 13th February 2023

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 20th February 2023—  
Friday 24th February 2023

Half Term

Monday 27th February 2023

All pupils return to school