

Newsletter - July 2023

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest"

Matthew 11:28

Message from Ms Phillips

We were delighted to be able to welcome our new Year 7 cohort to school for Induction events in the Summer Term, including Induction Evenings in Form Groups when pupils were able to meet key staff and familiarise themselves with the school building.

Parents and Carers were also welcomed into school to hear about Curriculum Evenings to take place in the Autumn Term and our values and expectations at Woodchurch High School.

A large number of pupils, including them with SEND have had additional visits to school in smaller groups, as well as a separate evening meeting with their families. These visits will ensure that our most vulnerable pupils are well prepared for the move to secondary school.

On behalf of staff and Governors at Woodchurch High School I wish you all a relaxing summer and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back on **Tuesday 5th September 2023, rested and ready for another year.**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs S Bennett, Personal Assistant to the Headteacher for her 14 years of outstanding service and wish her a long and happy retirement.

Synthesia Project - Art Graphics

Year 10 Art Graphics students have been working on a project exploring how we can use mark making in order to create a visual representation of sound. This project was inspired by the artist Melissa McCracken, who has a condition called synthesia that allows her to see sound in marks and colour, which she then recreates in paint on canvas. Pupils have created a series of drawings, 3D wire sculptures, and photography in order to create a visual response to their favourite songs. They then used these photos to create stencils for their screen printing on to their tote bags. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the project and theory outcomes are all individual and unique.



Art and Design - Louisa Boyd

The Year 10 Art and Design group have been working on their Louisa Boyd inspired Sketchbook.

The final outcome has been a combination of all Assessment Objectives ranging from researching the Artist, developing their skills, working with mixed media materials like quink, watercolours, inks, collograph printing, graphic imagery, taking photos and digital manipulation. The outcome is a concertina style sketchbook, water colour painting and a collograph.

ECAD

Photography

Year 10 Photographers have manipulated their portrait photos in the style of the Photographer John Rankin. They have experimented with a wide range of materials including, collage, paint, inks and digital manipulation with culminated in a final piece using a materials of their chosen successful experiments.



Primary School Art Festival

Our annual Art festival was a huge success again this year, it took place over the course of 5 days. We welcomed 180 Year 5 pupils from; Prenton Primary, St. Michael's and All Angels, Fender and Townfield. We also had a class in from Foxfield for a morning.

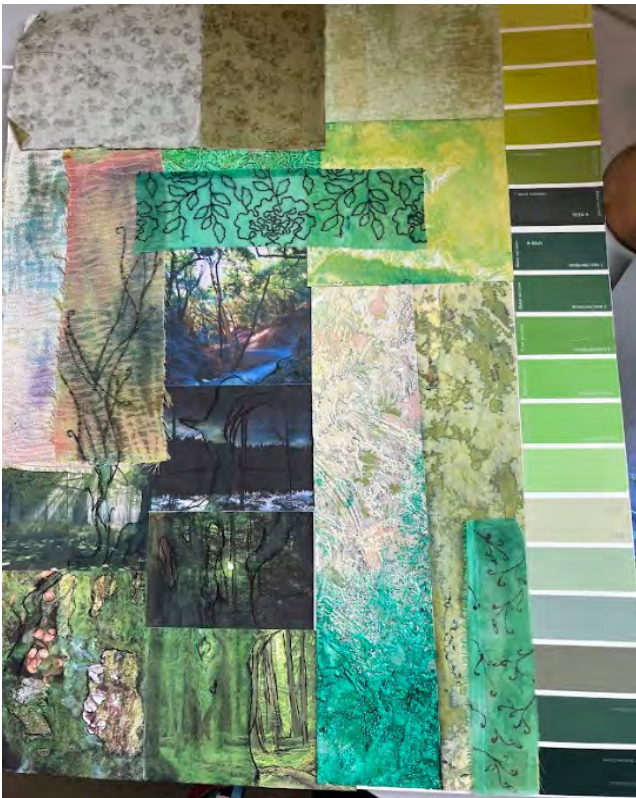
The designer and crafts person William Morris played a big role in inspiring the pupils to create a contextual research board and a clay tile using natural forms such as flowers, leaves and twigs from either their gardens and our school farm.

They loved the opportunity to use clay and creating their amazing outcomes which will be exhibited in Woodchurch High School in September.



ECAD

Year 10 Art Textiles students recently took part in a costume workshop with a lead designer, Miss Lomax, from LIPA university. Pupils were given the brief to design a costume for 'Manchester Day Parade' and create mixed media collage fashion designs. Pupils worked in the same way that they would do in a university setting and during the morning/afternoon discussed with Miss Lomax post 16 opportunities for set and costume design at LIPA. All work completed will be submitted as part of the pupils coursework.



English

End of GCSEs

This half-term we said goodbye to our Year 11 pupils who completed their final GCSE examinations and left our school community. The English team has been pleased to celebrate the successes of this cohort and would like to wish them every success in the future.

Year 11, we look forward to GCSE results day where we will see you reap the rewards of your hard work!

The Reader

Our Reader in Residence, Emma Taylor, has been encouraging the pupils that work with her each week to take an interest in books. Pupils accessing this programme were asked to write a review of their favourite book. Mikey Barlow in Year 9 wrote a review of his favourite book, Heartstopper, which we think is fantastic! Read it below:

Heartstopper is a romance set in a high school. Our central character Nick is in Year 10 and discovering his identity. I most like volume 2 in the series. I love this book because of the types of romance it covers, which include plenty of homosexual romances. It also includes the kinds of troubles and problems of young people and highlights that you can get through anything with the help of kind and understanding people. Also, it can help and highlights men's mental health. I also like the Heartstopper series because each book picks up from where it left off.

I would gladly recommend this book to all pupils who are interested in queer romance stories of every kind. The book can help in everyday life, encouraging people to speak up about their mental health. It also highlights the idea that you don't know what other people are going through behind closed doors. The main character Nick was struggling with his sexuality at the beginning of this book, but gains the confidence to come out to his mother and begins to feel more confident to be himself around his new partner, bullies, classmates and staff within his school. It is great to see his self-belief grow.



English

Year 7



This half-term, Year 7 have continued their study of Romeo and Juliet and the poetry of Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage. Pupils have particularly enjoyed exploring the different topics of Armitage's poems which, combined with his modern and conversational language, have captured the interest of Year 7. Some pupils have even been writing their own poems based on the theme of conflict, in the style of Armitage. Joshua McDonald has produced some excellent work this half term and Mrs Goaten would like to reward him for his endurance and consistent hard work.

Next year, when Year 7 pupils become Year 8, they will be starting the year with a study of Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black*. If any pupils want to jump-start their engagement with this topic, an exploration of the English Subject Site is advisable where pupils can access key knowledge about the novel. Also, of course, pupils could spend their summer holidays reading the book or watching the film adaptation!

Well done with your great start to your Woodchurch High School career - keep up the hard work next year!

Year 8

Year 8 has concluded the year with *Blood Brothers* and non-fiction writing. Pupils have enjoyed learning about the story and characters in *Blood Brothers* before applying their knowledge of the context and social issues in the play to their own non-fiction writing. In lessons, pupils have been writing about issues, such as child poverty, social



class differences and footballers' salary. Pupils have engaged well with these issues and have relished the opportunity to share their ideas and opinions with their teachers and peers. Miss Warrington's 8XEn5 class wrote interesting articles this half-term about the debate around private schools and the monetary value of education, and did an excellent job in persuading Miss Warrington towards their points of view. Mrs Goaten would like to recognise Brad Davies for his significant improvement in self-confidence in English and also Leo McGuone for his amazing enthusiasm for the subject.

As pupils enter Year 9, they will start by studying John Steinbeck's timeless novel, *Of Mice and Men*. This study of American literature is something the pupils have not come across yet at Woodchurch so we hope pupils will be excited to read the story and explore the vibrant characters.

A great job well done this year, Year 8. Keep up your infectious enthusiasm and energy ready for next year!

English

Year 9



This half-term, pupils have begun their study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* that will be further enhanced and continued as they enter Year 10. In particular, pupils have been learning about the context and appearance of witches in the play, focusing on Shakespeare's intention to impress the king, James I, with his negative depiction of witchcraft and the supernatural. Max Connelly has

displayed an excellent commitment to learning in Mrs Goaten's class - keep up your hard work, Max!

Pupils have been diligently writing about key scenes and learning important quotations that will benefit them as they continue this study in Year 10 - pupils must make sure that they make the most of their homework over the summer holidays to maintain their knowledge of the play and the quotations that they have already learned.

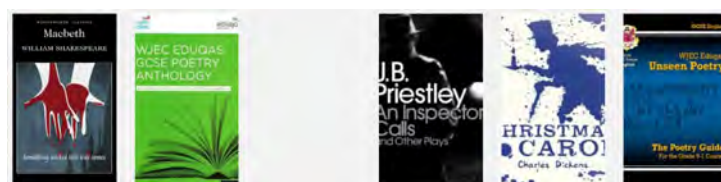
Congratulations on a successful year and rising to the challenge of studying so many texts! We look forward to seeing your successes in Year 10.

Year 10

Throughout the year, Year 10 pupils have been focused on learning about the texts they need for their Literature GCSE - pupils have been working exceptionally hard to commit to memory the plot, characters, contexts and quotations for each text and the 18 different poems they need to know. Pupils have been diligent in their classwork and independent study, which they know is important for achieving the grade they want to achieve in their GCSEs. Miss Warrington's 10Y2 class have been so enthusiastic about reading *An Inspector Calls* in particular and debating which character is most at fault for Eva Smith's tragic death.

As pupils enter Year 11, it is important that they keep up the same energy and momentum they have sustained this year as they will be learning about the Language GCSE. Over the summer break, pupils would benefit from reading widely for pleasure, both fiction and non-fiction, as this will benefit both their reading and writing skills. Pupils should also continue to revise their Literature knowledge in preparation for further assessments and Centre Assessed Examinations.

Well done for all your hard work so far - keep up the hard work ready for Year 11!



English

Year 11

We said a final farewell to Year 11 this half-term as they concluded their GCSE examinations. In the English Department, we are so proud of the work that pupils put into their revision for their examinations, producing flashcards, concept maps and mnemonics to help them learn knowledge and techniques.

As Year 11 move on to their next destinations, we wish them all the best for the future and hope that pupils keep in touch to share their successes.

Humanities



Year 11 have just shattered their final exams. To help support with revision, pupils should make use of the subject sites link below where you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed. We have also posted detailed revision support on google classroom. [Geography GCSE subject site](#)

Year 10 started looking at ecosystems and have been studying rainforests. In this unit pupils are expected to learn; the location of biomes, the structure and adaptations in rainforest, the causes and impacts of deforestation and how rainforests are managed. Pupils should make use of the subject sites link below where you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed.

[Geography GCSE subject site.](#)



Year 9 have started looking at coasts, in this we look how waves shape the coastline and the issues that affect people who live in coastal areas such as the Wirral

Year 8 are looking at ecosystems and will be looking at how humans impact food webs, the impacts of humans on rainforests and how we can look after our natural world.

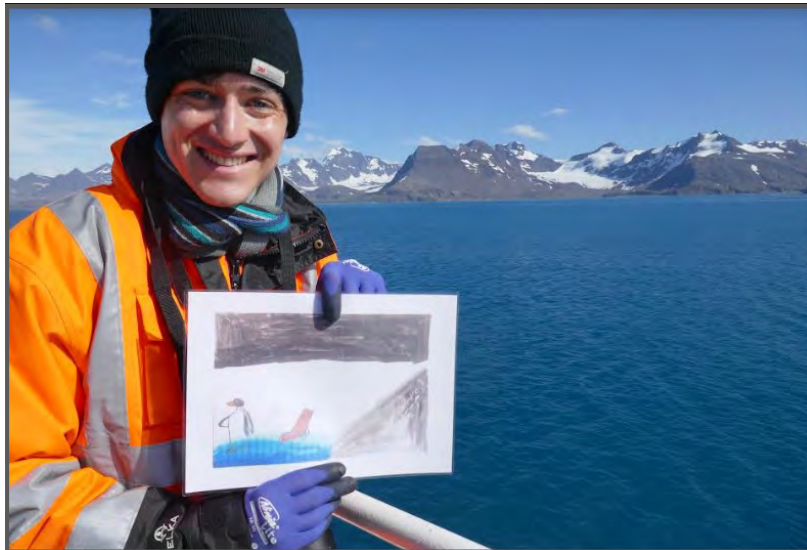
Year 7 have started studying tectonics. In this unit we are studying earthquakes and volcanoes, what causes them and how humans have adapted to live with these natural hazards.



Finlie Bell's flag made it to Antarctica!

It was photographed with oceanographer Jon Rosser on board the RRS Discover, which is named after the famous ship that carried Scott and Shackleton on their first trip to Antarctica. Jon is pictured with Finlie's flag in two locations. The first location is near South Georgia, whilst the second is near the A76a iceberg.

Jon is working on the research cruise to try and understand how the waters around Antarctica move, which has big impacts on melting the ice sheets and how much carbon the ocean is able to take up. Whilst Jon was on the ship, he was also able to help out with methane sampling around South Georgia, biological sampling of krill and other sea creatures, and even took water samples around A76a (one of the biggest icebergs in the world!)



Humanities



Year 11 have now begun their revision preparation for the formal exams. All resources can be found on the Subject Site, including asynchronous videos on how to answer the exam questions. This will be an invaluable resource to all pupils so please do encourage them to access this. Pupils can also contact their teachers for any further support if needed. May we take this time to wish all pupils the very best of luck and every success in their future endeavours.

Year 10 are continuing to work hard on the topic of the Cold War. Pupils must remember that they also need to be revisiting Elizabethan England content at home to ensure this remains fresh in their minds. All resources can be found on the Subject Site. Students will complete the Cold War topic in the final half term and will then move on to Crime and Punishment, which will see a nice change from what has previously been studied.

Year 9 are displaying great commitment to learning, even if they have not opted for History at GCSE. Students will be sitting an assessment on World War One shortly and will then start their final topic on how Hitler got into power. This will prepare them for their GCSEs, both in terms of content, but also skill, so those not continuing with History will also benefit next year.

Year 8 have recently moved onto the Slave Trade and it has been pleasing to hear pupils share their stories about visits to Liverpool's museums or places they have been in the city with links to slavery. Students are displaying a greater understanding of the importance of learning this topic and have shown humility and respect throughout their lessons.

Year 7 have now started the topic of the Tudors and have enjoyed sharing what they already know. There are clearly a lot of Horrible History fans in the year group! They are also working hard at developing their historical skills, building confidence in using sources and interpretations to find out about the past. Well done!

Humanities



This term year 7 have started an exciting new unit all about Islam. We are thinking about what it means to be a Muslim, including their Holy Book, place of worship and their beliefs about God. There will also be an opportunity for selected students to go on a trip to the Wirral Deen centre to experience even more about Islam.

Our Year 8s have been rising to the challenge this term so far as we have thought about the Holocaust. We have looked at topics such as Persecution, Propaganda, and how Jewish people held on to their faith in the most difficult of circumstances. Students have been able to act and speak with compassion and maturity as we have tackled this sensitive and challenging topic. Next term we'll move on to a whole new faith as we begin to look at the teachings of Buddhism, exploring the Eightfold Path and the life of the Buddha.

In year 9 we have been exploring what happens when faith and courage collide. From Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic priest who sacrificed his life to save a total stranger in the chambers of Auschwitz; to Malala Yousafzai, a faithful Muslim who championed girls' right to education even when it put her life in danger, we are looking at heroes of faith who have shown exceptional courage and faithfulness in many different situations.

Year 10 are focused on completing paper 2 on Christian Beliefs and Practices, and have been working hard towards their assessment. This term, the brilliant Christian charity Open Doors will be coming in to speak to us about Christian Persecution in the wider world. There will also be a trip for selected students to the Jewish Museum in Manchester.

Our Year 11 cohort have made a positive start to the GCSE season, and are working incredibly hard. Just one more RS exam to go after half term! Paper 3 on Judaism was on Tuesday the 6th of June (PM).

Maths

Liverpool Maths School Year 8 and Year 10 Maths Competition

Eight of both our current Year 8 and year 10 students were specially selected to take part in the Liverpool Maths School competition this month. The students really enjoyed the day and were a remarkable reflection of our school community and values. Thriving together, they displayed wisdom and endurance, and allowed their minds to open up to new challenges.

Year 8 Team

Nathaniel Leung
Freya Peczek
Tyler Bayley
Treasure Olaluwoye
Lola Kelly
Lewis O'Hare
Denys Boiko
Kaleb Thompson



**2nd
Place**



Year 10 Team

Milo Ho
Gabriel Nabong
Max Harwood
Thomas Johnston
Wendy Wong
Cherry Lui
Jack Taylor
Aaron Graham-Comber

Our Year 10s got to work with Kyle Flynn who left Woodchurch last year and now attends the Maths School. 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.

Maths

Edge Hill University Mathematics Challenge Finals

24 of our year 9s successfully gained a place in the Edge Hill University Mathematics Challenge Final this month, an annual competition organised by the Faculty of Education that provides pupils the opportunity to take part in engaging mathematical activities while developing teamwork and communication skills. All of our students showed hope and thankfulness throughout the day and demonstrated our Christian values in an exceptional manner.

The students had to present their group's work to a panel of judges and then got to do a tour of the campus, followed by a presentation where they all received certificates and a mental maths challenge puzzle book.



Our 6 teams (with their chosen mathematical group names):

The Oblongs	The 5 Pro-Tractors!	Multiplication Matrix	Pi Lovers	Maths Machines	The Fraction Fellas
Grace Byrne	Niamh Nixon	Ellie Davies	Grace Jones	Cameron Jones	Joe Roberts
Ian Leung	Heidi Lee	Geordie Fung	Belle Liu	Jessie Chan	Evan McLaughlin
Connor Hilton	Alex Cullen	Luca McNulty	Toby Wilson	Jack Kennan	Lewis Hawkins
Leon Woods		Thomas Orisch	Libby Platts	Hollie Stebles	Leo King
				James Stewart	



Maths

Year 7 and 8 Junior Maths Challenge

In April, selected pupils in Year 7 and 8 participated in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. It was a fantastic opportunity enjoyed by pupils to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency. The pupils worked extremely hard and a huge congratulations to all that participated.

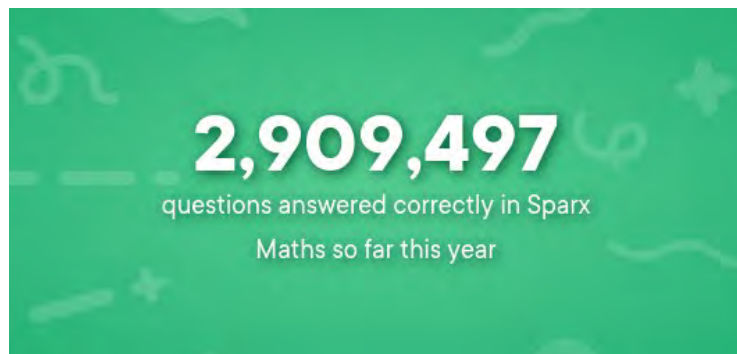
To recognise the hard work displayed, the highest performing pupils (within the top 50% of all participants across the country) were awarded either the bronze, silver or gold award. Well done to the following pupils on their achievement:

Lacey McMahon	Silver - Best in Year	Moe Fung	Silver - Best in School
Oscar Hall	Silver Certificate	Harry Corker	Silver Certificate
Bobby Bell	Silver Certificate	Noah Lucas	Silver Certificate
Nathaniel Leung	Silver Certificate	Emily Martin	Silver Certificate
Daniel Nabong	Silver Certificate	Isla Axtell	Bronze Certificate
Millie Davies	Bronze Certificate	Tilly Hardman	Bronze Certificate
Beau Roberts	Bronze Certificate	Laelia Dennett	Bronze Certificate
Ben Hickson-Evans	Bronze Certificate	Mathew Lynds	Bronze Certificate
Sam Murray	Bronze Certificate	Freya Peczek	Bronze Certificate
James Rylance	Bronze Certificate	Charlie Bell	Bronze Certificate
Will Cassia-Davies	Bronze Certificate	Jolie Fung	Bronze Certificate
Olly Morton	Bronze Certificate	Charlie Phillips	Bronze Certificate

Maths



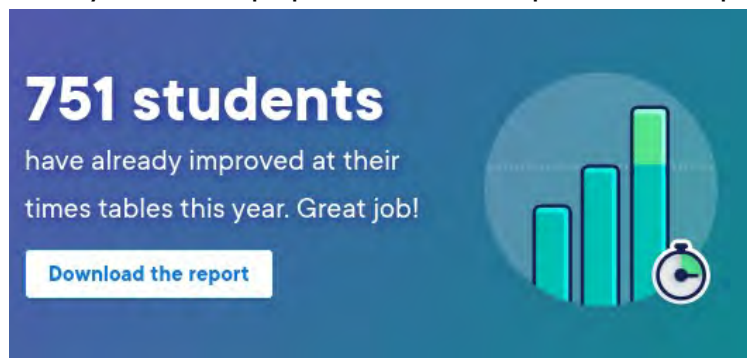
Sparxmaths continues to have a positive impact on Woodchurch High School we have answered almost 3million questions since September.



Which has been reflected in almost 32,000hours of additional independent study.



Nearly half the pupils have seen personal improvement in their times tables.



The Maths Staff offer Study Support sessions at lunch and after school everyday so that pupils are always able to have help with their homework.

Maths



Performing Arts



Music

Year 7

This half term year 7 have begun their Musical theatre topic. Singing in front your peers can be a daunting thing, especially at High School! However, Mr Fenney

and Mr Payne are so proud of the



effort and endurance shown by all Year 7 classes in their mature approach to singing. In addition to learning various songs from the Musical Theatre songbook, Year 7 have learnt how to safely use your voice through a warm up. The year group will soon be moving onto an exciting new Eurovision scheme of work, bespoke to this cohort. Stu-

Year 8



Year 8 have started to look at Rap and Hip Hop as their next scheme of work. The students are introduced to different styles of rap such as, Scripted, Improvised and Battle to gain a greater understanding of the genre as a whole. The students are not only looking to develop their rapping and

song writing skills but also look into producing their own rap backing track on the production software, Soundtrap. Year 8 students have already started to creatively explore and impress the Music department with some of their creations so far. Mr Fenney and Mr Payne cannot wait to see some of the finished tracks to be able to demonstrate their musical ability within this topic.

Year 9

Ed Sheeran once said that, 'writing songs is like running an unused tap. The first few are rubbish, like brown water, but once you have practised it becomes second nature'. Coming from an international superstar - there is no underestimating the song writing focus of this topic. Despite this challenge, there has been some outstanding work, including Alex Cullen's 'Burger King' song and Sam White's, 'Artist at Work'. Students have been learning how to write lyrics before introducing rhythm and pitch to create a melody, and chords to create an accompaniment. It's been lovely to see a wide variety of topics covered in the lyrical aspect of the unit with many meaningful and intelligent lyrics put together from some groups.

Performing Arts



Others students within Year 9 have been dedicated to independently developing their performance skills. One student who has displayed phenomenal endurance is George Sidall who has taken every opportunity to develop his drumming skills. The Year 9 cohort continue to impress the Music department with their ability to create, and demonstrate endurance within their Music lessons. We cannot wait to see what they achieve in Key Stage 4!



Year 10

Firstly, a huge congratulations to our Year 10 groups who have now finished their first component of the BTEC, which accounts for 30% of their overall grade. They have demonstrated excellent subject knowledge within this unit, studying in-depth a wide variety of musical genres. The second aspect of this unit is more practical based with opportunities to explore the theme of discovery within their musical products. Students had to create three 30-60 clips across three disciplines, (Performing, Composition and production). Using a variety of instruments and recording techniques the students across all year 10 classes for Mr Fenney and Mr Payne have impressed us both with their creation skills. Well done!

Year 11

Year 11 have now completely finished their Music course, having submitted their coursework at the start of May. Their exam is to essentially choose a song and a genre of music from a specified list, and then practically create a cover version of that song. We had fantastic submissions across the board, including Reggae versions of 'Don't Look Back in Anger' and a Pop Ballad - esque, 'Don't Stop Believing'. Year 11 demonstrated all skills picked up in their 2 years of time within Music, showing excellent time management and musicianship when creating their products and the Music department are so

Science

Year 7



Over the past half term Year 7 have begun learning about light and sound. They have investigated why sound requires a medium to travel through and why it travels at different speeds in different states of matter. They then went on to investigate light travelling at straight lines to explain how shadows form and why light gets dimmer when it moves further from its source.

Congratulations to the following pupils whose hard work in Science has resulted in them moving up to a higher set:



Jun to Chan
Kian Rooney
Kayin Lam
Leo Somani
Ryan Critchley
Zachary Peirce
Paul Lau
Jack Parke
Esmail Luxton
Charlie Norris
Nathaniel Grey

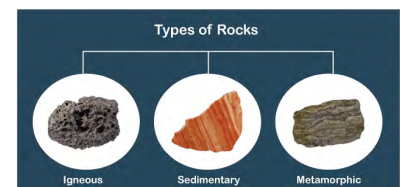
Oscar Moores
Cody Doherty
Macy King
Finley Roche
Adam Anwar-Clark
Leah Fox
Madeleine Brown
Joseph Urus
Pak Yan Ho
Zach Parkes
Harvey Montgomery-Gibson

During this half term Year 7 will continue learning about how light enters the eye to allow us to see and will follow in the footsteps of Sir Isaac Newton when investigating the colours of the visual spectrum when white light is split.

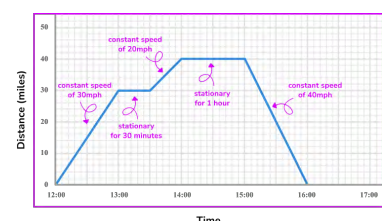
They will then build on previous knowledge from Primary school about food webs when studying their biology topic of interdependence.

Year 8

Last half term, Year 8 have studied the structure of the Earth to begin learning how rocks are formed and the characteristics of sedimentary, metamorphic and igneous rocks. Pupils investigated the properties of each type and how the cooling rate of magma determines the type of igneous rock formed.



Year 8 have also completed their physics topic of moving by force in which they have built on knowledge of resultant forces from Year 7 to determine speed of objects, from which pupils constructed motion graphs and measured acceleration.



In their biology topic of health and disease, Year 8 have learnt about good health and disease, including the importance of good mental health linked to the well being and mental health support offered by the school.

Science

Year 9

Over the past half term, Year 9 have built on their Year 8 knowledge of interdependence in biology. They have learnt about ecosystem dynamics and the importance of biodiversity. They studied how conservation and sustainability have a role to play in maintaining high biodiversity.



During their physics topic of floating and sinking, Year 9 were introduced to density and carried out investigations to prepare them for their Density GCSE required practical which they will carry out next year.

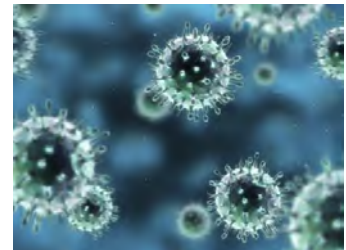
PERIODIC TABLE OF THE ELEMENTS

A standard periodic table of elements with color-coded groups.

Over the next half term, Year 9 will study the periodic table. They will apply previous learning on elements and compounds to investigate the properties of different groups of elements within the periodic table. This topic will introduce subatomic particle which will lead into the first GCSE unit on atomic structure at the start of Year 10.

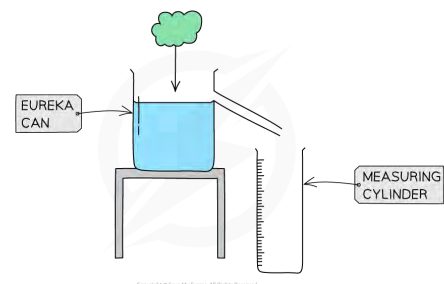
Year 10

In their Biology lessons, Year 10 have been learning about infection and how our immune system responds to pathogens. They have studied different types of pathogen: viruses, bacteria, fungi and protists, including how we can prevent the spread of these pathogens, important lessons for life as well as supporting their GCSE studies.



Chemistry lessons have studied chemical changes, with pupils investigating pH scale, the reactions of acids with bases, carbonates and metals. Over the next half term, pupils will go on to investigate energy changes in reactions to identify reactions as endothermic or exothermic.

In the Physics unit of the Particle Model of Matter, pupils have applied understanding of particles from Key Stage 3 to understand internal energy and carried out the Density GCSE required practical. In their next topic later this term, pupils will begin studying how we have developed our understanding of the atomic structure of atoms through the collaboration of different scientists.



Careers

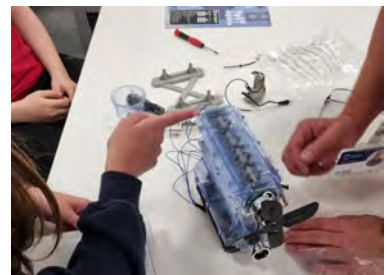
Year 10 Careers Trip to Cheshire College May 2023

On Tuesday 23rd May 2023, 70 pupils attended a taster day at Cheshire College Ellesmere Port Campus to experience a variety of courses and take a tour around the spectacular campus and outstanding facilities. Pupils were able to choose from a variety of courses to engage with including the following:

- Engineering
- Motor Vehicle
- Uniformed Protective Services
- Early Years
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering
- Travel and Tourism
- Performing Arts
- Beauty
- Hairdressing
- Sport
- Plumbing

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and were engaged in all tasks, behaving impeccably across all departments. The college staff praised the pupils and the high standard of work they produced.

Well done Year 10!



Dame Kelly Holmes Trust

Year 10 Social Action Project.

This term a very determined group of our year 10 girls have been working hard with their athlete mentor (World Champion Inline Skater, Jenna Downing). They were selected to take part in the 'On Track To Achieve Programme' funded by the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust.



Following several competitive proposals, staff selected the project which would raise funds and awareness of The Teenage Cancer Trust. The girls have coordinated with staff throughout the school and have planned a range of activities to take place Tuesday 11th July.

They have worked very hard this term including attending on one of the strike days to ensure the deadline would be met and plans finalised.

At time of writing they have already raised in excess of £250 for this deserved cause and they hope to break through their £500 target by the end of the school year. Any donations in support of this would be greatly received and can be sent directly via their just giving page; <https://www.justgiving.com/page/donatoteenagecancertrust>

Tuesday 11th July will see bake sales, sports challenges, messages of hope and remembrance as well as information about the charity and work they do being promoted throughout school.

In addition to this event, the girls are also heading out of school Thursday 13th July to complete a sponsored walk to raise funds for The Stroke Association which was another organisation they felt really passionate about.



The group have shown fantastic commitment to the project, they have brought their own personal experiences and skill sets to support each other and have developed both individually and as a team throughout the programme.



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

Thank you

to

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants

from

Woodchurch High School

who spent

91 Hours

**volunteering between
1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.**

**We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement
of young people making an impact in their community.**

The social value of these hours is

£437

RUTH MARVEL CHIEF EXECUTIVE

June 2023



Woodchurch High School recently had the opportunity to host the IQM North West cluster group.

A group of 21 colleagues from Primary and Secondary schools across the North West joined us to share practice in the areas of; Inclusion in Action, Effective deployment of Teaching Assistants and Responsive Teaching. Our visitors also had the opportunity to visit the school farm where they took part in activities such as planting sunflowers and helping Oscar the Tortoise keep cool! Overall, the day was a great success with positive comments and feedback.

On 22nd June, the school was reassessed for the national Inclusion Quality Mark which we currently hold flagship status.

The assessor spoke with staff, parents and pupils about the school's inclusivity and how all pupils are welcome in our community and are supported and cared for.

We were delighted to have our flagship status reaffirmed

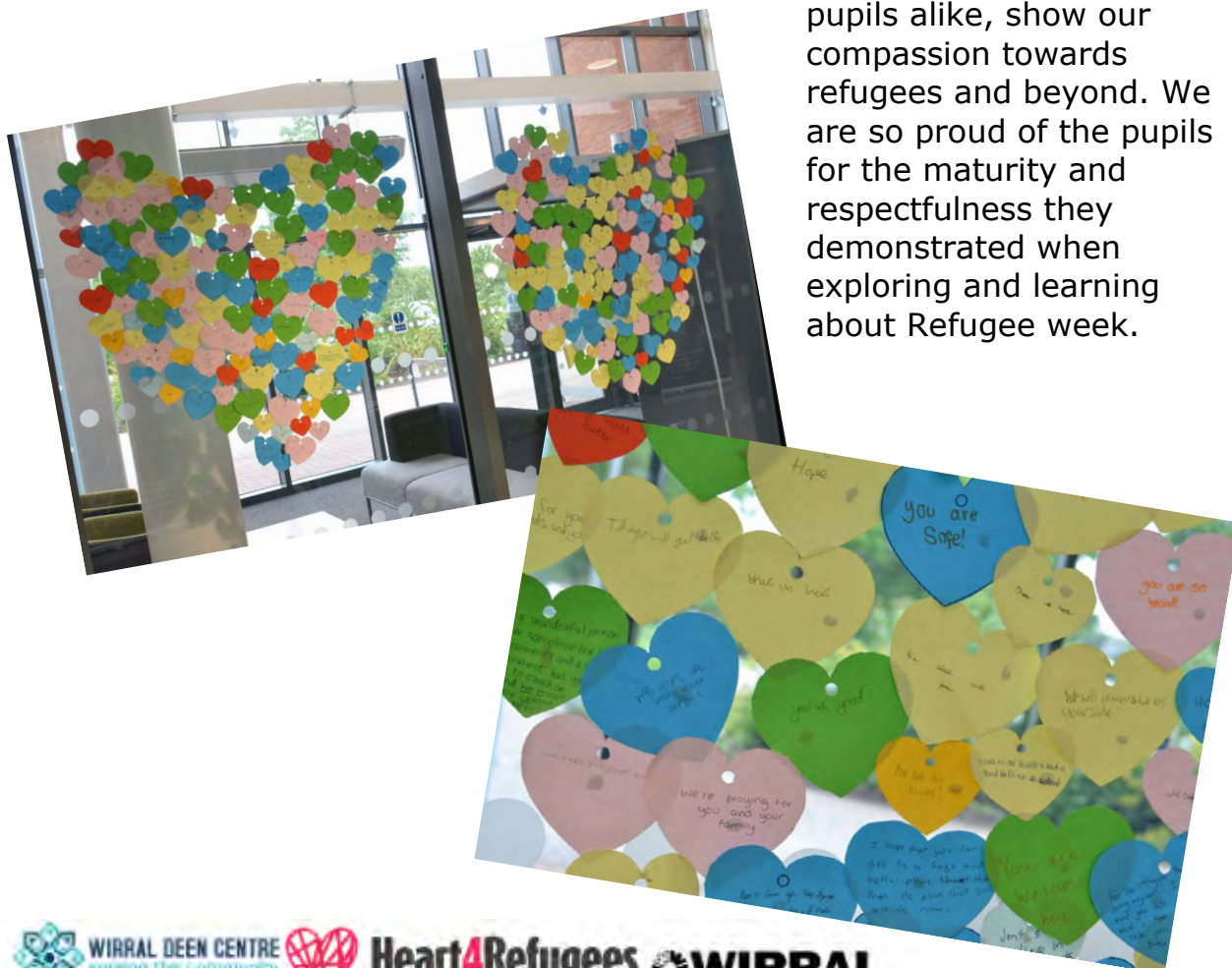


Refugee Week 2023

The theme for this year's Refugee Week was compassion. This year, communities were asked to consider what compassion looked like in action and to create a shared understanding of compassion to ensure we extend it widely, to all. At Woodchurch high school, we believe that compassion is a feeling of empathy for others leading to a desire to help. We act with compassion towards all members of our school community and seek to show compassion in the wider world.

To show our support to refugees, as a school community, we supported the Hearts4Refugees campaign. We made hearts from coloured paper with messages of hope, peace and compassion to the refugees of Wirral, and to all humanity. During form time, each pupil received a heart and was invited to write a message on it. The pupils in 9YZ, worked together to display them as big hearts, at the entrance to school- they are a range of sizes and colours; with messages that are short, simple and bold. The display looks amazing and the messages of support, which have been read by staff and

pupils alike, show our compassion towards refugees and beyond. We are so proud of the pupils for the maturity and respectfulness they demonstrated when exploring and learning about Refugee week.



School Farm

As usual it has been a busy time on the school farm but we have a lot of news to pass on about our great pupils and farm animals.

The last weekend in June we had the opportunity to take two pupils to the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester. The event was to celebrate school farms across the country (of which there are over 130). Will Darroch and Ella-Rose Mitchinson (Year 9) were chosen to represent WHS Farm. Both Will and Ella have been actively involved as Mentors and have volunteered on the Farm since they were in Year 7.

Will and Ella took part in university taster workshops, which involved visiting the university's specialist research centres including a dairy farm, an equestrian centre and a crop growing facility.

The University also hosted the National School Farms Awards Gala Dinner. We were delighted when, out of 10 finalists, Ella-Rose was named as the winner of the ..

'Student of the Year 2023 Award'
Ella-Rose received the Award for her work with mentoring younger pupils on the Woodchurch High School Farm and also for her farm fundraising activities.



Other Farm News:

Congratulations to Dr Tom Bennett BVMedSci (hons) BVM BVS MRCVS.

Tom (a former pupil of WHS) has just graduated from Nottingham University. We wish him every success in his career as a Vet.

A big thank you to all who donated and attended the Farm Summer Fair. Your donations for the Fair were very generous and helped us to raise £1,474.10 All of the money will go to the upkeep of the schools farm animals.

We wish you all a happy summer from all on the Farm.

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School Farm

Student of the Year 2023

Over the weekend Ella-Rose Mithinson and Will Darroch attended the National School Farms Conference & Awards at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester. While the conference took place Will and Ella-Rose took part in a range of agricultural and university taster workshops. On Friday evening they represented our school farm at the National School Farms Awards Gala Dinner, which is held at the university. Out of ten finalists Ella-Rose was voted by the University competition judges as winner of the Student of the Year Award!

Ella-Rose has been an amazing Ambassador for our school farm. She volunteers for all farm fundraising events, she is a supportive Mentor to younger pupils, she is an enthusiastic host when visitors come to see the farm, she has represented the school farm at numerous agricultural shows in sheep handling competitions and she has even made two television appearances promoting the school farm. Ella-Rose's contribution to school farms stood out in the competition and the university said she was a clear winner. Also speaking at the conference was Dr Tom Bennett, who spoke about his career journey from WHS to Veterinary Science. Ella-Rose and Will got to spend time with Tom over the weekend to chat about his career journey, which was inspiring for them both.



School Farm

Cheshire Show

Woodchurch High School Sheep Handling Team 2023:

Year 7: Abbie Swann, Megan Pitt, Oscar Hall and Corey Gibson

Year 9: Will Darroch and Ella Rose Mitchinson

The Woodchurch High School Sheep Handling Team had a great Cheshire Show earlier this week. They camped for two nights (in some horrendous weather). The first day at the show, once our North Ronaldsay sheep had been settled in, the pupils toured the showground. They took a herd of alpacas for a walk. They had great college taster sessions at the Reaseheath stand - including driving on the tractor simulator, experiencing tree climbing. They saw a vast range of farm animals and wildlife.

On day two our pupils put on their lab coats and flat caps and did an amazing job showing the school's sheep - winning lots of rosettes. Highlights: In the Young Handlers Competition Corey Gibson came 2nd and Abbie Swann came 3rd (they did really well especially as they were competing against other children from farming families). Oscar Hall and Abbie Swann also won 1st prizes for the Shearling class and Ewe with Lamb at Foot. One of our ewes with her lamb also won the Reserve Champion (2nd best in the whole show)!

Also, at the show two past pupils came to say hello - Sophie Tedesco (now 27) is working as a Dairy Herdswoman in Shropshire and Laura Parry (now 21) has just finished her second year at university studying Zoology. Both girls are former WHS Young Sheep Handlers and it was great to see them (see photo below).



School Farm

Westmorland Country Fest

Woodchurch High School Year 7 Sheep Handling Team 2023:

Abbie Swann, Megan Pitt, Oscar Hall, Harvey Montgomery Gibson and Corey Gibson

We took an amazing team of Year 7 pupils to the Westmorland Country Fest in Kendal to be trained by RBST farmers to become Young Sheep Handlers. The pupils were completely thrown out of their comfort zone as they camped for two nights with just a cold water standpipe to drink and wash from - but they did have the luxury of a chemical loo!

The pupils were worked so hard by the farmers in the full sun - they constructed animal pens, were taught how to assess the condition of sheep, how to prepare sheep for showing and were given a demonstration of shearing. They showed a wide range of rare breeds in the competition ring in front of the public at the show and they won a range of rosettes - with Megan Pitt winning 1st Prize in the Novice Sheep Handling Competition (out of 18 competitors!) and Abbie Swan won the trophy for Most Improved Sheep Handler of the weekend.



Sparks

The sun was shining as the SPARKS pupils left school for an exciting trip to Chester Zoo.

The school minibus, left full to capacity, with 12 happy pupils and 3 members of staff.

On arrival we were greeted by a friendly zoo team and set off in the direction of the elephant enclosure. What a marvellous sight and how thrilling to see the elephant family group. We were also able to reflect on the stark contrast to how Stella the elephant is treated in our current read, 'The One and Only Ivan.'

The whole day was an absolute delight as we ventured around the zoo complex, and with a £5 reward in the offing for the pupil who gleaned the most facts from the trip, we were happy to announce at the end it went to Ciaran who outshone the rest relating many facts he gleaned from the information boards around the zoo.

Everyone purchased something from the gift shop and all boarded the bus happy and content.

This activity will be followed with a writing task, featuring one of the animals at Chester zoo or a written review, 'Our Zoo Day Out!'



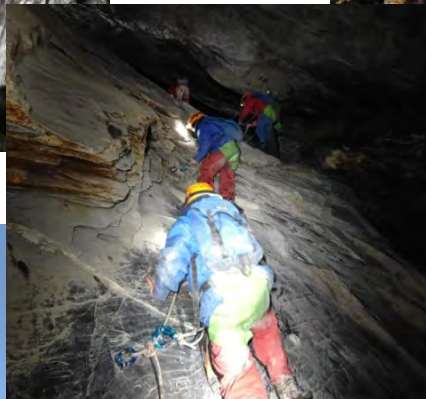
Year 9

On Monday 27th April, 47 Year 9 pupils visited Plas Dol-Y-Moch, near Blaenau Ffestiniog for a 5 day residential trip in Eryri (Snowdonia National Park).

The pupils completed a variety of activities that challenged them both physically and mentally and demonstrated many of our values, such as endurance, compassion and trust throughout the 5 day trip.

Some of the activities completed were mountaineering, rock climbing/abseiling, underground mine exploration, kayaking, raft building, gorge walking and problem solving.

The pupils were excellent and gained many new skills that will be beneficial for years to come.



Farewell to Staff

Teaching

Mrs M Eves- English
Mr J Roberts- Maths
Miss J Horsewood - Maths
Mrs B Guy – Subject Leader for History
Miss N Dickinson – Teacher of Art and Design
Mr A Myers – Teacher of Geography
Mrs A Braithwaite – Teacher of Science
Mrs D Collinson – Teacher of English
Miss K Bruce – Teacher of Science
Miss E Betts – Teacher of RS
Mr J Gilbey – Teacher of RS
Miss I Mclean- Teacher of Geography
Miss S Brennan – Teacher of English
Mr C Hewson- Director of Maths
Miss D Penn- Teacher of Science
Mr P Brade- Teacher of History
Mrs L Lewis- Teacher of History
Mrs S Brown - Teacher of Science
Miss A Lavelle - Teacher of MFL

Support

Mr T Clarke- Resource Assistant
Mrs S Bennett – PA to Headteacher
Mrs L Hackett – Farm Development Manager
Mr S Hudson- Teaching Assistant
Mrs J Davis- Cleaner
Miss M Burke - Cover Supervisor

Diary Dates

Monday 4th September 2023	Staff Development Day—school closed to pupils
Tuesday 5th September 2023	School re-opens to all pupils
Friday 20th October 2023	Staff Development Day—school closed to pupils
Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October	Half Term