
Newsletter - October 2023

“But the grace the God gives is even stronger. As the scripture says, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble”.

James 4:6

From Ms Phillips

It has been a very busy, successful half term. We have welcomed a number of new staff, who have settled well into the Woodchurch family. Our Year 7 pupils, following a successful transition period, have fully adapted to our values and ethos, and we are delighted with their confidence, resilience and compassion.

Already we have had a number of Parents’ Evenings, which were well attended, and enabled parents/carers to meet with Form Tutors and review feedback on their child’s performance and progress to date. I would like to thank the Careers Team, headed by Mr Bannon, for the Careers Event that took place this week. There was an excellent response from the employers and the parents/carers and pupils. The evening was vibrant and our pupils came away with ideas and lots of pens!.

The Year 7 Curriculum Evenings were also well attended, where staff were able to present their curriculum and inform parents/carers on how they can help their children succeed in their learning.

Open Evening, again was a busy and enjoyable occasion. Our Prefects and pupils were highly praised for their contribution to the evening and they were great ambassadors for Woodchurch High School.

We trust that you have a restful half term break.



Engineering



Last Years, Year 9 students Soar to New Heights with Recycled Bird Sculptures!

Last year all of our Year 9 students in Engineering were hard at work, crafting stunning bird sculptures made entirely from recycled materials. These feathered wonders, with their intricate metal wing feathers, now adorn our school farm, serving as a testament to the power of sustainable artistry.

Each Year 9 student dedicated themselves to this project, handcrafting 3-4 metal feathers for their unique bird sculptures. The result is a breathtaking display of diverse avian species, ranging from majestic Red Kites to charming sparrows, all standing tall on the school farm.

Not only have our students showcased their artistic talents, but they've also demonstrated a commitment to the environment by giving new life to discarded materials. This project is a shining example of how creativity and conservation can come together to make our world a more beautiful and sustainable place.

The Year 9 eco project has not only adorned our school farm with stunning bird sculptures but has also left a lasting impact on our students, instilling in them a sense of responsibility towards our planet's future.



English

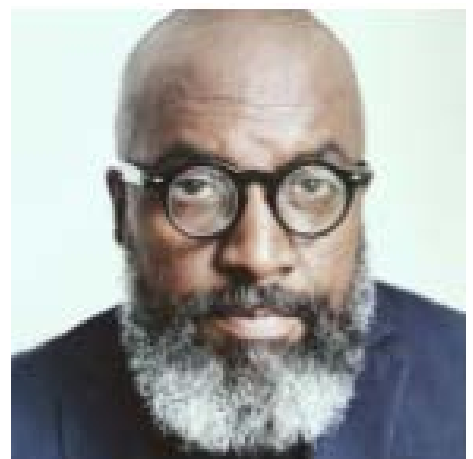
National Poetry Day

On Thursday 5th October, National Poetry Day inspired the pupils of Woodchurch High School to think about this year's theme of 'Refuge'. Pupils explored what the words 'refuge' and 'paradise' meant to them in response to 'Portable Paradise', a poem by Roger Robinson, a poet and performer based in London and Trinidad. Pupils then had the opportunity to write their own poems around this theme, thinking about their own versions of paradise and refuge. It was a delight to see so many pupils engaged with the medium of poetry, and for pupils to have a chance to explore their creativity by writing their own poetry. Miss Hastings would like to praise Ryan Connolly for his excellent poetry!

Here is an example of the brilliant poetry written by our pupils...

*Your dreams are one thing, paradise is another.
Your dreams will thrive, paradise will come.
Follow your dreams!
As your dreams get nearer, you get closer to paradise.*

By Sonny Ives, Year 7



English

Young Writers competition

Last year, pupils across the school were invited to submit 100 word stories for a Young Writers competition called Unsolved. Five pupils from Woodchurch High School were selected to be published after carefully crafting mini-sagas in the crime genre. Pupils will receive a certificate in assembly after the half term, and you can check out their stories, when published, on the Young Writers website.

Well done to our winners:



Ellie Kennedy 8YV

Lacey-May Unwin 8YV

Mia-Elise Williams 8XV

Mia Barham 8XV

Kyra Marshall 11YZ

Keep your eyes peeled for the next Young Writers competition - details will be posted on the English Staff Base door.

Open Evening

On Monday 2nd October, the English Department opened its doors (literally) to welcome prospective pupils and their families, and give them the opportunity to explore our curriculum through a range of activities.

Our pupil helpers were brilliantly professional: supporting activities, engaging with prospective pupils and answering questions from parents.

Thank you so much to our volunteers for their dedication and professionalism!

We had a range of activities based on our texts from this term: Oliver Twist, The Woman in Black, Of Mice and Men and To Kill a Mockingbird. We also had some narrative writing activities where pupils had a chance to create their own stories using dice and spinning wheels.

English

Year 7

Our year 7 cohort have made a really positive start to the year, getting used to a new school and building relationships with peers and school staff. In English, students have written about their first experiences in school, focusing on the joy and excitement of starting at a new school, as well as overcoming some understandable apprehension. Year 7 are currently reading *Oliver Twist* and have shown great dedication and enthusiasm in reading Victorian literature.

Describing larger than life characters such as The Artful Dodger and Mr Bumble has been a particular highlight. Studying Dickens' fantastic characterisations and descriptions of Victorian London will make a lovely segway into descriptive writing next half term. Students will have the opportunity to develop and showcase their creative writing skills and imaginative ideas. Miss Gooding would like to specifically mention Zac Moncur for his enthusiasm in English, his compassionate interactions with his peers, and a fantastic start to the school year. Mrs Goaten has been very impressed by Will McCulloch for showing excellent endurance in lessons, always trying his best in both class and when completing independent work at home. Miss Hastings would like to celebrate Elmie Jinoy for consistently showing wisdom and endurance in all lessons, independent learning at home, and for showing enjoyment of her studies. Miss Topham and Miss Atkinson would like to celebrate 7YEN1 for their thoughtful and enthusiastic start to the first term, showing a wonderful willingness to contribute as a class, as well as to listen sensitively to others' opinions.

Pupils are becoming familiar with the English Subject Site, an invaluable resource to catch up on any missed learning, help with homework, and prepare for assessments. As the year goes on, KPLCs and the English Subject Site will continue to support students across the curriculum, developing a deep understanding of English Literature and Language.

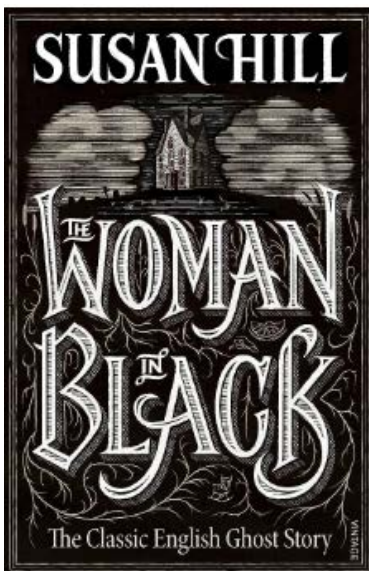


English

Year 8

This term, Year 8 have dived straight into exploring their new Gothic and haunting text, *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill, studying the typical conventions of Gothic literature and identifying these within the novel itself. Pupils have been reading and responding to questions investigating how Hill creates tension in the novel, especially through Gothic settings and characters, which has also been apparent as we too have definitely felt the tension!

Miss Gooding would like to celebrate Mia-Elise Williams in particular for her consistent effort and participation within lessons, analytically inferring meaning from extracts from the book.



Amongst classes, there has been great enthusiasm for the book so far and next term pupils will continue to study Hill's novel, learning more about the hauntings and story behind the 'Woman in Black' herself.

Pupils will also be exploring narrative writing and crafting their own fictional writing to create interesting and tense stories, as inspired by the set text.

Pupils should continue to use the Subject Sites to revise for upcoming assessments and when completing homework. These are an invaluable resource to properly prepare and immerse themselves in independent learning beyond the classroom.



English

Year 9

The Year 9 cohort have risen to the challenge of exploring American Literature with great endurance and compassion. Across the two texts studied, *Of Mice and Men* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, students have explored the depiction of key characters and been faced with complex social issues such as poverty, racism and ableism, and have engaged with these topics with integrity and compassion. Through analytical writing, students have

explored how both Steinbeck and Lee present their opinions and intentions through the text, and garner impressions regarding character and plot. Mr Power has been especially impressed by 9X6, for their curiosity, consciousness, hard work and effort in class. 9X4 have produced some excellent work for Miss Warrington and are consistently engaged, especially when discussing different characters from *Of Mice and Men*.

As the students move into the second half of the Autumn term, they will complete their novels and start to explore a vast array of literature, including poetry. This will support the students in recognising the conventions of creative narrative writing and aid them in creating their own fictional texts.

With assessments for Year 9 occurring after half term, students can find revision strategies and English specific content on the school's Subject Sites. Additionally, the KPLCs will help students to further embed their knowledge and act as a vital resource in developing a deeper understanding of their texts.



English

Year 10

Year 10 have had a seamless start to their GCSE studies. This term, they have begun studying Macbeth and have been tackling the complexities of Shakespearean language, exploring the plot and tracking character development. Additionally, students have made an excellent start in learning an array of key quotes which will support their GCSE preparation and revision, and have been building upon the knowledge that they have built up in Year 9.

Ms Calder would specifically like to celebrate the efforts of Ellie Day, Anais Jones and Evie Lewis who have each displayed impressive and effective independent learning which has been reflected in their quotation recall tests. Miss Warrington's class, 10X6, have made an excellent start to the year and consistently show a fantastic attitude to learning and amazing recall of their knowledge!

As the term progresses and the students delve deeper into Macbeth, students will continue to consider how Shakespeare utilises the conventions of the Tragedy genre to create a compelling and suspense filled play. Students can support their understanding of the text through the use of the KPLCs and the English Subject Site.



English

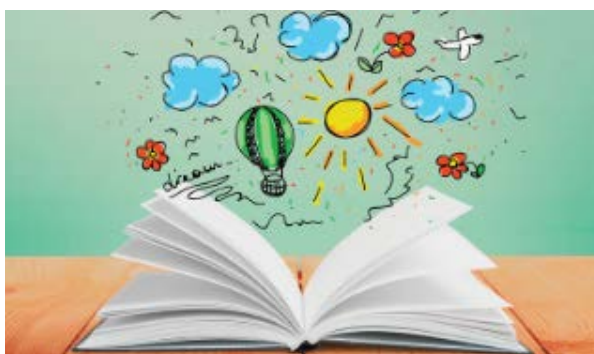
Year 11

Year 11 have sustained great commitment and dedication to their learning in preparation of their GCSE examinations. Students have been continuing to revise Literature and their key literary texts, consolidating the knowledge built in their last academic year. Their new double lessons on alternate Thursdays, and participation in Period 6, have given pupils the opportunity to expand and practise their knowledge of Literature. Pupils have also been studying Language Component 1, reading and writing fictional stories using past exam papers as inspiration.

Miss Smethurst would like to specifically mention Harry Jones' wonderful story titled The Wedding - exceptional work! Miss Blackwell would like to praise Lexi-May Barker-Wellings for her consistent engagement and enthusiasm for English. Grace Shaw in Miss Calder's class has been showing excellent resilience so far this year - keep up the hard work!

As the next half term approaches, students will move on to Language Component 2, reading and writing non-fiction texts, practising key skills which will allow them to write for a specific purpose and audience such as, letters, articles and reviews.

The Subject Sites should be continued to be used to revise Literature and also access key material and support with Language. As always, pupils are encouraged to talk to their teachers for any support, guidance or advice whenever needed.



English

Subject Sites

The English Subject Site is an excellent resource available to pupils across KS3 and KS4 to support their learning. Pupils can use the Site for support with homework, to revise their knowledge and to practise their skills such as analysis and identifying quotations.

The Site is easy to navigate using your Woodchurch High School Google login, but pupils should seek out their teacher if they have any questions around how to use the Site effectively.



Humanities

Geography

Year 11 are approaching the end of our unit on Coasts. Pupils have studied how the coastline is impacted by the process of erosion, transport and deposition, with local examples found on the Wirral. Pupils should be making use of the subject sites and Google classroom to revise and prepare for exams and assessments. In the link below you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed. [Geography GCSE subject site.](#)



Year 10 have made an excellent start to their GCSE studies, and have been on fieldwork to Loggerheads in North Wales to apply their understanding of river processes. Despite the wet weather, the pupils conducted themselves impeccably and we received lovely feedback from members of the public who were there. In the link below you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed. [Geography GCSE subject site.](#)

Year 9 are learning about Rivers in the UK, and have studied features such as waterfalls and oxbow lakes. Pupils have stepped up to the challenge of learning about more complicated processes well.

We will be going on to study River management and how flooding impacts on people and the environment. Support on this is on the subject site by clicking on the link [Year 9 Geography](#).



Humanities

Geography

Year 8 are looking at China. So far they have learnt about China's location and how it grew into a superpower. We will be going to look at the issues that China has with its large population including the one child policy and its impacts that lead to its abandonment.

Pupils will also cover manufacturing using the case study of the Apple I-Phone and the Shein clothing company, to investigate working conditions and the morality of the decision we make.

Support on this is on the subject site by clicking on the link [Year 8 Geography](#).



Year 7 have been looking at our unit “What is Geography?”

This unit introduces the subject and the three categories (Human, Physical and Environmental). Pupils have developed skills in photo analysis, the location of the 7 continents and 5 oceans and will be looking at map skills such as compass direction, grid references, map symbols and measuring distance.

Support with these skills are available on the subject site by clicking on the link below [Year 7 Geography](#).

History

Year 11

Humanities

History

Year 10

Year 10 have started their GCSE course very well indeed. They have also been studying the Medicine Through Time development study, as we have reviewed the timings of our learning programme and decided that this will put pupils in a strong position by the end of Year 10.

As our subject site is under review due to a change in exam board, please use the resources available [here](#) from the BBC Bitesize team.

Key Stage Three

All of our Key Stage Three pupils have been undertaking an exciting new unit called Who are the British? which seeks to explore how the migration of people to our islands over time has enriched and developed our language, power structure, landscape and way of life over time. This helps to ensure that we are fulfilling our National Curriculum target of covering a development of study in our islands before 1066 in a different, and relevant way. We will be reviewing this unit with pupils to see how best to improve it even further in the future.

There are some lovely supporting resources [here](#) for you to look at as a family.

Digging for Britain is a great series that shows pupils how we find out about the past. Some great clips can be found [here](#).

Britain's most historic towns is also another great series to watch. Episodes 1 and 2 of series 1 are great for this unit. Please find them on Channel 4 OD [here](#).

Humanities

Religious Studies



Year 7 - Year 7's have made a wonderful start to their RS studies at Woodchurch. They are being introduced to Christianity and have been focusing on topics such as Jesus, the story of Creation and how it might be understood by different Christians. They have been exploring the nature of God, and understanding the 4 Omni's - God being Omnibenevolent (all-loving), Omnipresent (everywhere), Omniscient (all-knowing) and Omnipotent (all-powerful). They will move on to looking at church buildings and significant rites of passage including marriage and baptism. Please use this link to access the Year 7 subject site.

Year 7

In November, there will be a trip for Year 7 to Holy Cross Church where they will take part in a scavenger hunt and then listen to a presentation about Baptism and Eucharist.

Year 8 - Year 8 has also made a great start to the new school year. Our topic this half term is 'Faith in Action'. The pupils have been looking, in some depth, at what inspires them, and also Christians. They have had a snapshot into the lives of some key figures and thought very hard about what has inspired these people to do the great works they have done, as well as consider how they might inspire us. Our Year 8 pupils will now move onto looking at the work of some wonderful charities. Some of our Year 8's will soon be heading out on a trip to watch a play about William Wilberforce, best known for his efforts in abolishing slavery. Please use this link to access the Year 8 RS subject site information.

Year 8



Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 9 - Year 9 have been looking at the awe and wonder of creation in their Environment topic. They have been looking at the problems our beautiful world faces and the attitudes of both Christians and Humanists to protecting the environment. They will move on to look at key figures in conservation and the environment such as Chico Mendes and David Attenborough.

Year 9



Year 10 - Year 10 have made an incredibly positive start to their RS GCSE studies. They will be following Eduqas Religious Studies GCSE Route A. This programme of studies is taught in three components - Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical studies where they will look at issues in relationships such as marriage, modern family life, divorce and gender prejudice. Life and Death which looks at how the universe was created, religious and scientific attitudes, abortion and euthanasia, and life after death. Issues of Good and Evil which focuses on the causes of crime and aims of punishment, forgiveness and sin. Finally, Component 1 finishes with Human Rights where students will look at the dignity of life, prejudice and discrimination and poverty. Further Components can be accessed via the subject site

Year 10



Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 11 - Year 11 are now in the final stretch of the RS GCSE studies and have begun the year in a committed fashion. They are currently focusing on Component 3 which sees them studying Judaism. Having studied this earlier in their Woodchurch life, they have an excellent knowledge base from which to build upon. As with all our students, our Year 11's are strongly encouraged to access the Subject Site and other revision resources that will help them to be successful.

Year 11

Our Year 11 ASDAN students have been studying a unit on Peace and Conflict where they have been looking at war, nuclear weapons and Remembrance Day. They have shown great enthusiasm and understanding.





“The limits of my language means the limits of my world.”
Ludwig Wittgenstein

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 Speaking Assessment

Year 7 are currently completing their Speaking assessments. We encourage Year 7 to access the MFL Subject Site to support their learning for the assessment. In lessons, pupils will be acting on feedback from the exams and celebrating successes. Well done Year 7 and keep up the good work!



“At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can”
Frida Kahlo



Year 8 Writing Assessment

Year 8 are currently completing their writing assessments. We encourage pupils to use the MFL Subject Site to support them in their revision for the assessment. Well done Year 8 thank you for your commitment to revision!

Year 9 Reading and Listening Centre Assessed Exams

Year 9 will be competing Centre Assessed Exams in reading and listening after the October half term. They should revise by accessing the MFL Subject Site. Thank you for your Endurance and Commitment to revision Year 9.

Year 10 Translation Assessment

Year 10 students are currently completing their Translation assessments and will be acting on feedback and celebrating successes in lessons. Well done Year 10 on showing incredible Endurance and Wisdom.

Year 11 Reading and Listening Centre Assessed Exams

Year 11 will be completing their Centre Assessed Exams on Monday 30th October; Spanish (am) and French (pm). 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

Sophie Anderson
Mason Billington
Michael Williams
Louis Peers
Lewis Webster

Luca Rainbow
Matteo Perez Cuestas
Lauren Burgin
Isabella Rice
Nancie Thomas

Felix Tang
Hayley Holt
Sonny Kerr
Dylan Parry
Andrei Lupancu

Year 8

Isla Axtell
Oscar Hall
Summer Cullen
Nathan Jones

Kasey Watson
Theo D'Arcy-Whittaker
Ruby Walker
Cody Doherty

Mia - Elise Williams
Aaron Bunnell
Finn-James De Souza
Layla Talman

Year 9

Maddie Rich
Emily Martin
Lola Kelly
Liam Saunders

Max Billington
Mikey Goodwin
Amelia Pickstock
Yusuf Rintoul

Laelia Dennett
Patrick Evans
Noah Bennett
Christopher McDermott

Year 10

Thomas Jones
Paddy Kennedy
Leah Owen

Isla Kerr
Evie Harper
Sienna Atherton

Alex Tait

Year 11

Lauren Dodd
Ellie-Mae Davis

Megan O'Connell
Ollie Harper

Sophie Wilson
Rafael Mirasol



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. James Stewart | 6. Niamh Nixon |
| 2. Brandon Robinson | 7. Jessica Smith |
| 3. Ruby Irving | 8. Lily-Mae Martin |
| 4. Fin Lamb | 9. Kaci-May Holt |
| 5. Faye Baker | 10. Ella Standen |

Year 7 French Music Club

Miss Harrington is running a Year 7 French Music Club every Monday lunch time in MFL 1.

Modern Languages Subject Site

On the Modern Languages Subject Site, pupils can find knowledge organisers for each topic, grammar video explanations and topic videos to support their revision for 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!





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'.

Music

Year 7

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



Year 8

This half-term has seen Year 8 refamiliarising themselves with the key musical skills of rhythm and pulse. We have been really impressed with the endurance shown when exploring a piece of unseen sheet music. These skills enable them to have more independence in practically exploring their own choice of music. There are excellent resources on the Music Subject Site to support with this! Next half-term will see the year group learn about what a chord is and how we can play them on both the keyboard and a new instrument- the Ukulele. We look forward to seeing the progress they make. Keep it up, Year 8!



Music

Year 9

Over the last half-term Year 9 pupils have been applying their knowledge through composing melodies. This can seem rather daunting as there are so many ways to do this! Year 9 have been thankful for the opportunity to learn this skill, and shown endurance in the various stages necessary to compose a melody. This is a skill we will be exploring in more depth during our Songwriting topic later on in the year when we will utilise this learning and introduce chords, and apply various musical elements Well done Year 9- there are definitely many students who should be considering continuing Music into Year 10!



Year 10

This half-term, Year 10 have made a very positive start towards the first year of their BTEC course. Firstly exploring their prior theoretical knowledge in the lessons, then understanding their practical skills on their chosen instruments. I have been particularly impressed with the way Year 10 has shown endurance in Music, showing confidence during performance lessons and extending their musical practice outside of lessons as well by attending the Y10 performance clinic after school on Thursday's. Year 10 has provided an excellent attitude towards covering a variety of tricky theoretical topics. Well done Year 10 on such a positive start!



Music

Year 11



This half-term, Year 11 have returned to Woodchurch with an extremely positive hard working attitude towards Music. They are currently completing their coursework which focuses on 'Skills Development': challenging themselves by performing complex songs like, I Want You Back (Jackson 5) to recording their own music on the program, Soundtrap. Developing these skills will directly link to the work they will need to complete in next year during their final exam. Mr Payne and Mr Fenney are extremely proud of the year group for their commitment during lessons and work outside of lessons. A very bright start to the final year of school, Keep this up Year 11!

Extra curricular activities

This half-term, Year 10 have made a very positive start towards the first year of their BTEC course. Firstly exploring their prior theoretical knowledge in the lessons, then understanding their practical skills on their chosen instruments. I have been particularly impressed with the way Year 10 has shown endurance in Music, showing confidence during performance lessons and extending their musical practice outside of lessons as well by attending the Y10 performance clinic after school on Thursday's. Year 10 has provided an excellent attitude towards covering a variety of tricky theoretical topics. Well done Year 10 on such a positive start!



Physical Education

Below is a timetable for all the extra-curricular clubs that the PE department offer for pupils at Woodchurch High School.

PE Department extra-curricular timetable 2023-24

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LUNCH CLUBS (bring your trainers)	Year 7 boys Basketball	Year 7 girls Basketball	Year 8 Basketball	Year 9 Basketball	Year 10 & 11 Basketball
BOYS CLUBS 3:15 – 4:30	Rec Football Years 8, 9 & 10	Gym Club Year 8 Rugby	Year 7 Rugby Basketball Years 7&8	Year 7 Football Year 9&10 Rugby	Fun Club
GIRLS CLUBS 3:15 – 4:30	Football Dance 7&8	Netball Year 7-10 Dance Year 10 BTEC	Gym Club Basketball Years 7&8	Netball Year 7-10	Fun Club

A reminder to students that there will be a ski kit evening on Thursday
16th November at 5.30pm

PE have an instagram page that has regular updates, club information
and photographs on.



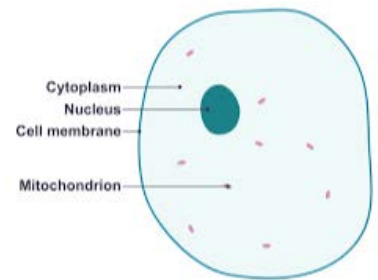
The username for it is woodchurchpe



Science

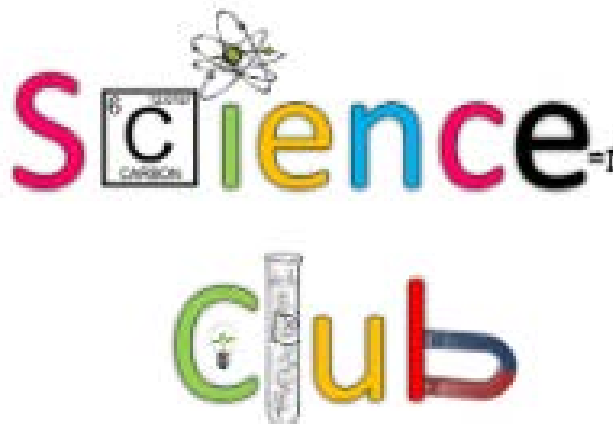
Year 7

In Year 7, our young scientists have embarked on an exciting educational journey. Through interactive lessons, they've learned the importance of laboratory safety and how to handle scientific equipment with care. They've also had hands-on experience with Bunsen burners, mastering the art of controlled flames for experiments. In addition, they've explored the fascinating world of cells, understanding their vital functions within living organisms. Lastly, they have been studying forces, uncovering the invisible factors that shape our universe.



Science Club

We are absolutely delighted by the overwhelming turnout at Science Club this half term! The enthusiastic participation of students has filled our club meetings with energy and excitement. It's a testament to the genuine curiosity and interest our students have in the world of science. We couldn't be happier to see so many young minds eager to explore, question, and learn together.

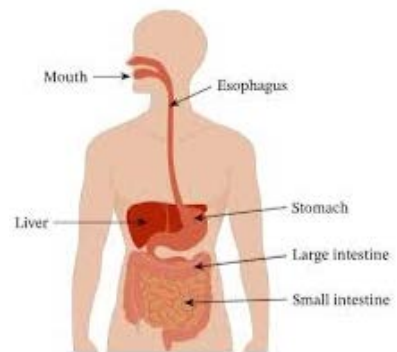


Science

Year 8

In Year 8, students have been studying organ systems and chemical reactions. They have enthusiastically explored the complex human body systems, including the circulatory, digestive and respiratory system.

Students have also been engaged in studying chemical reactions, observing how substances transform and react with one another gaining valuable insights into fundamental scientific processes.



100% Club

Year 7 and Year 8 students have been captivated by the exciting topic of oxygen production on Mars during their 100% club assemblies. Through an interactive presentation, they've explored the cutting-edge science behind creating a habitable environment on the Red Planet. These assemblies have not only broadened their horizons but have also ignited their imaginations, sparking a newfound curiosity about the possibilities of space exploration and the future of humanity beyond Earth



Science

Year 9

In year 9, our budding scientists have been exploring photosynthesis and the periodic table. Students have unravelled the intricate process of photosynthesis, understanding how plants harness sunlight to create energy. In addition, they have been exploring the periodic table to comprehend the elements that make up our planet.

As Year 9 approach their first assessment after the half term break, we have ensured they are well-equipped with comprehensive revision materials to support their preparation. This includes Educake questions, subject site links and revision guide page references.

Year 9 Assessment Revision Planner

Week	Topics	Revision Guide Pages and Subject Site Links	Tick when complete
02/10/23	Digestive System Circulatory System The Heart	Pages 8-9 Link Link	
09/10/23	Gas Exchange System Organisation of Organisms Variation	Pages 11-12 Link Pages 2-3 Link Page 27 Link	
16/10/23	Distillation Chromatography Cells	Page 38 Link Page 37 Link Page 2 Link	
23/10/23	Forces Enzymes	Page 76 Link Page 8-9 Link	

Science

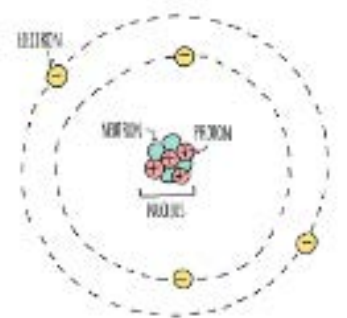
Year 10

Year 10 have begun studying GCSE Science with the AQA exam board.



In their Biology lessons, Year 10 have been building on prior knowledge and understanding of cell structures from Key Stage 3 before learning about the structures of prokaryotic cells and how they differ to eukaryotic cells. They have also completed their first required practical, being the first pupils in the school to use the Science Faculty's brand new microscopes to draw cells and calculate their size.

Chemistry lessons have studied the structure of the atom, including the electron configuration before going on to look at the development of the periodic table and the properties of some of its groups. Over the next half term they will investigate mixtures and practical separation techniques.

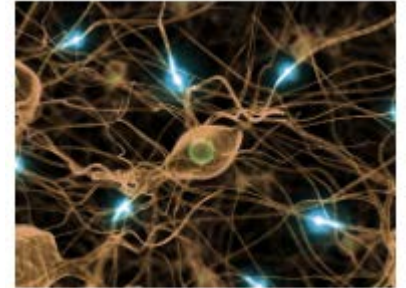


In the Physics unit of Energy, pupils have learnt how energy is transferred from one form to another and used the formulae to calculate kinetic, gravitational potential and elastic energy. Later in this topic, pupils will learn about energy resources including how limits to the use of fossil fuels and global warming are critical problems for this century. Physicists and engineers are working hard to identify ways to reduce our energy usage.

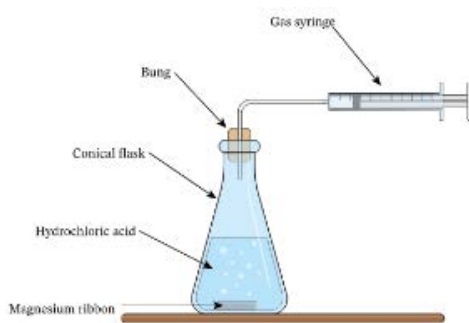
Science

Year 11

In their Biology lessons Year 11 have been learning about homeostasis, the process by which the human body is constantly monitored and controlled using the nervous system and hormonal coordination. This includes the reflex arc used to avoid harm, the control of blood glucose levels and how hormones control the menstrual cycle.



In Chemistry, pupils have investigated how different factors affect the rate of chemical reactions and why this is important in industrial chemical processes to increase the yield in the most energy-efficient way.



This included the rates of reaction required practical in which pupils saw how changes in concentration of reactants affect the rate of reaction using methods that involved measuring the volume of a gas produced and involving a change in turbidity.

In Physics, engineers analyse forces when designing a great variety of machines and instruments, from road bridges and fairground rides to atomic force microscopes. Year 11 have been studying these concepts in their forces topic including types of forces, calculating resultant force and elasticity.



Science

Year 11 Revision Planner

Year 11 have begun preparing for their GCSE examinations by engaging in a structured revision programme which involves weekly topics for them to revise independently using their revision guides, the Science Subject Site and our new online homework package: Educake. This revision planner, with links to revision videos, revision guide page numbers and Educake quizzes can be found on the Science Subject Site.

Centre Assessment Examination Revision

Life is not a simulation; it's the real game. Play wisely.

Below you'll find links to a week by week breakdown of revision, to prepare you for the January, Paper 1 Centre Assessment Examination.

Each week you should:

- Watch the short revision videos from each biology, chemistry and physics page.
- Make condensed notes, concept maps or flashcards for each video.
- Complete the Educake quiz each week to check your understanding.
- Keep returning to your condensed notes, concept maps or flashcards. Re-watch the video if you have gaps in your learning.

[Combined Science- Foundation Tier](#)

[Combined Science- Higher Tier \(Set 1\)](#)

[Triple Science](#)

Science

Educake

Our students have demonstrated an impressive level of engagement with our newly implemented Educake homework platform. Since its introduction, they have embraced this digital learning tool, which has allowed them to access quizzes and measure their progress with ease. Their proactive approach to completing homework through Educake reflects their commitment to academic excellence.

A special 'shout out' to the students below that have answered the most questions this half term:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Harry Stebles (224)	Ben Carson (471)	Daniel Nabong (1202)	Sau Yeuk Wong (584)	Lucy McDonough (892)
Jacob Loftus (220)	Lennon Phillips (368)	George Hollowell (385)	Yuet Long Leung (475)	Amelia Jones (518)
Zac Moncur (184)	Jayden Baines (265)	Jolie Fung (358)	Olivia Fishwick (414)	James Wright (512)



Careers & Work Experience

We have a busy schedule of events and activities for careers and already we have had assembly presentations to Y11 from Wirral Met, Cheshire College and also lunchtime drop in sessions by both providers. This will continue after half term with assemblies and lunchtime drop in sessions from different providers. We also offer focussed group work sessions, targeting specific occupational information and sign up sheets are available in the corridor outside our office opposite the inclusion pod.

We held our annual Careers Fair on 17th October at Woodchurch High which was really successful. We had a vast number of local Post 16 providers, Employers and Universities who attended. Thank you to parents and carers who attended with pupils and the feedback that we received was that pupils felt well informed about future choices.

Pupils are also able to book an interview with our Career Advisor, Mrs Thomlinson, to receive one to one guidance and parents/carers are welcome to attend upon request. Sign up sheets are available outside our office.

We would recommend pupils set up online accounts with Kudos which school has funded access for all pupils in each year group and is a fantastic careers resource. Kudos can be used to search for apprenticeship vacancies, college courses and University courses as well as helping pupils match their skills and preferences to different career paths. More information and details of how to create an account can be found in the Pupil Planner.

Careers & Work Experience

This half term we had a careers drop down day for Year 11 which focussed on the pathways available on leaving school, making applications and preparing for interviews. After our drop down day 109 pupils signed up to Kudos to help them plan their career pathway and have found this to be extremely useful in helping find out information about courses that are available for Post 16.

Work Experience for Year 10 will be taking place 12th - 16th February 2024 and any outstanding permission forms need to be handed in by pupils on return from October half term. Just a polite reminder that pupils who are seeking a self placement with family/friends/local businesses must return their self placement forms by 15th December 2023. This means we have adequate time to undertake the necessary statutory safeguarding checks, health and safety checks and insurance checks. For pupils not seeking self placements we will continue to allocate placements that we have sourced.

Rev L Bannon
Mrs A Smith

Catering


This term, pupils have sampled some new menu items in readiness for our revised menu launch after half term. The favourite meals will remain on the menu and we will be adding new dishes such as Roast Chicken Dinner, Scouse, Salt n Pepper Chicken and Cheese and Onion Pie.

Throughout this term, we will continue to engage with our pupils and get first hand feedback in order to support further changes for the preparation of the Spring Term Menus

Mr I Langley
Catering Development Manager

Weekly Menu 1

Woodchurch High School




FOOD ALLERGIES and INTOLERANCES
Please speak to our staff about the ingredients in your meal, when making your order.
Thank you.

Monday <u>Southern Fried Chicken Burger</u> Coated chicken fillet in a floured bun. Served with cubed potatoes and salad. Or <u>Mac N Cheese</u> Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce. Topped with grated cheese.	Tuesday <u>Tandoori Curry</u> Spiced Tandoori chicken in a rich creamy tomato butter sauce. Served with yellow rice. Or <u>Vegan Sausage Roll</u> Meat free sausage roll. Encased in puff pastry. Served with new potatoes and beans.	Wednesday <u>Beef Bolognese</u> Minced beef combined with herbs, tomato and vegetables. Served with fresh cooked pasta, garlic bread and grated cheese. Or <u>Margherita Calzone</u> Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	Thursday <u>Chicken in a Box</u> Coated southern fried chicken Strips and popcorn chicken. Served with wedges, beans or corn on the cob. Or <u>Cheese & Onion Pie</u> Grated cheese and sliced onion. Encased in shortcrust pastry served with wedges and beans.	Friday <u>Fish and Chips</u> Cod fillets coated in batter. Served with chips, mushy peas or beans. Or <u>Sausage and Chips</u> Or <u>Quorn Quesedilla</u> Minced quorn, diced vegetables, mexican beans and spices. Served in a wrap topped with cheese.
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Available Daily

- * A selection of freshly made sandwiches, Rolls, Baguettes, Wraps, Salads
- * Home-Baked Desserts
- * Yoghurts, Fruit Pots
- * Cheese and Crackers



Available Daily

- Assorted Panini's *
- Pizza *
- Pasta Bar *
- Jacket Potato with fillings *




Eat Fresh

Catering

Weekly Menu 2

Woodchurch High School



FOOD ALLERGIES and INTOLERANCES
Please speak to our staff about the ingredients in your meal, when making your order. Thank you.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Salt N Pepper Chicken</u> Popcorn chicken coated in a salt and pepper rub. Served with sweet chilli noodles. Or <u>Mac N Cheese</u> Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce. Topped with grated cheese.	<u>Chilli Con Carne</u> Minced beef combined with spices, tomatoes and vegetables. Served with rice. Topped with tortilla chips and grated cheese. Or <u>Quorn Quesedilla</u> Minced quorn, diced vegetables, mexican beans and spices. Served in a wrap topped with cheese.	<u>Roast Chicken Dinner</u> <i>Chicken breast served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes, gravy and stuffing.</i> Or <u>Cheese & Onion Pie</u> Grated cheese and sliced onion. Encased in shortcrust pastry. Served with seasonal vegetables and roast potatoes.	<u>Marinated Chicken Wraps</u> Sweet, sticky maple and sweet chilli chicken. Served in a tortilla wrap. With potato wedges and fresh salad. Or <u>Margherita Calzone</u> Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	<u>Fish and Chips</u> Cod fillets coated in batter served with chips, mushy peas or beans. Or Sausage and Chips Or <u>Vegan Sausage Roll</u> Meat free sausage roll. Encased in puff pastry. Served with chips and beans.

Available Daily

- * A selection of freshly made sandwiches, Rolls, Baguettes, Wraps, Salads
- * Home-Baked Desserts
- * Yoghurts, Fruit Pots
- * Cheese and Crackers



Available Daily


- Assorted Panini's *
- Pizza *
- Pasta Bar *
- Jacket Potato with fillings *



Eat Fresh

Weekly Menu 3

Woodchurch High School




FOOD ALLERGIES and INTOLERANCES
Please speak to our staff about the ingredients in your meal, when making your order. Thank you.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<u>Sausage and Mash</u> Oven cooked sausages. Finished with gravy. Served with mash potato and seasonal vegetables. Or <u>Vegan Sausage Roll</u> Meat free sausage roll. Encased in puff pastry. Served with mash potato and seasonal vegetables.	<u>Chicken Burrito</u> Chicken combined with spices and vegetables in a tortilla wrap. Baked in the oven. Served with wedges and salad. Or <u>Margherita Calzone</u> Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	<u>Sweet & Sour Chicken</u> Coated popcorn chicken in a sweet and sour sauce with diced vegetables. Served with boiled rice Or <u>Mac N Cheese</u> Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce. Topped with grated cheese.	<u>Scouse</u> Slow cooked beef. Combined with potatoes, onions, carrots and celery. Served with crusty bread Or <u>Cheese & Onion Pie</u> Grated cheese and sliced onion. Encased in shortcrust pastry. Served with new potatoes and beans.	<u>Fish and Chips</u> Cod fillets coated in batter. Served with chips, mushy peas or beans. Or Sausage and Chips Or <u>Quorn Quesedilla</u> Minced quorn, diced vegetables, mexican beans and spices. Served in a wrap topped with cheese.


Available Daily

- * A selection of freshly made sandwiches, Rolls, Baguettes, Wraps, Salads
- * Home-Baked Desserts
- * Yoghurts, Fruit Pots
- * Cheese and Crackers



Available Daily

- Assorted Panini's *
- Pizza *
- Pasta Bar *
- Jacket Potato with fillings *



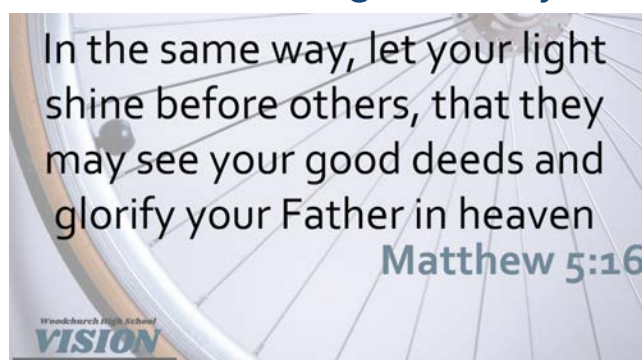
Eat Fresh

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this half term we have looked at the school vision, which is taken from Matthew 5:16; it says, “Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in Heaven.” We thought about how it links with our School Christian Values and how we apply those in the outside world, to encourage one another to love and good deeds.

Through this half term we have also been thinking about prayer – what prayer is, and how Jesus taught his followers to pray using the Lord’s Prayer. The Lord’s Prayer reminds us to praise God, to thank Him and to say sorry to Him. God loves to hear from us in prayer; the bible says “God’s there, listening for all who pray, for all who pray and mean it.” (Psalm 145:18). If prayer is unfamiliar to you, but you’d like someone else to say a prayer for you, we have a system in school called Say One for Me – it’s a letterbox for pupils and staff to post prayer request cards into, for our Chaplaincy Team to pray for. This has run successfully in school for many years, and we extend the offer to you at home via email. If you would like our Chaplaincy Team to pray for you, or those you care about, for any reason then send them an email to chaplaincy@woodchurchhigh.com and they will Say One for You. These prayer requests are viewed and prayed for by the Chaplaincy Team in school and by a small group from the St Mary’s Parish Church in Upton.

Coming up at St Mary’s Church next half term, we have All Age Services at 10:30am on the first Sunday of the month, with themes taken from Pixar movies – on Sunday 5th November we’re using Wall:E, and on Sunday 3rd December we’re using Toy Story as this will also be our Christmas Toy Service. All are welcome to join us for these services – there’s something for everyone!



Farm

We've had a great start to our year here on the farm and have already been to our first show of the year! Our sheep handling team hit the ground running at the start of term with some after school practice sessions before heading up north to the Westmorland County Show on the 14th of September.



We don't take our own sheep to this show, so once there we joined with other sheep breeders from the Rare Breeds Survival Trust who lent us some of their sheep to show in the Young Handlers competitions. We had two pupils in the over 12's category, and four in the 12 and under, which turned out to be a VERY busy class indeed with around 20 competitors! It took the judge a very long time to get round them all and our team did really well to show sheep that they're not used to. It's fair to say it got them looking forward to another year of shows with CountryFest and the Royal Cheshire Show still to come later in the year

The Westmorland show also marked Mrs Hackett's final show as Farm Manager after 13 incredible years in the role. Mrs Hackett has bought the farm from humble beginnings of just a few small animals, to the amazing, award winning, school farm that we all know and love. We now have nearly 50 animals of all shapes and sizes and the farm plays host to a wide variety of groups and events throughout the year, serving not just our school but the whole community. Everyone on the team here joins in wishing Mrs Hackett and wonderful (and well earned!) retirement at the end of October



Thank you Mrs Hackett!

From the Pupils and Staff of Woodchurch High School Farm

KS3 Art Club - Art Conversation and Creating Club



In the new art club "Art Conversation and Creating Club" students in KS3 have been looking at the illustrator Ashley Percevil with Miss Watson, who creates beautiful artworks around the topic of animals. His work is full of character and patterns.

Students enjoyed looking at his owl illustrations and have started drawing their own versions. In the next few weeks we will refine these ideas, add characteristics of owls that students are researching to see what type of owls they like best and experimenting with different materials!

This club happens on Thursday lunch times and still has some spaces available!



SEND



Our SEND Greenbank sports events have restarted this term and we have kicked off with a bang. Three football tournaments over the course of three weeks resulting in one gold medal, one silver medal and two 4th place finishes, so it has been a very successful start.

Our pupils have shown great endurance throughout these tournaments and shown great humility and compassion whilst representing the school and should be very proud of their achievements.

Sports Leadership



Last academic year a group of children completed their Level 1 in Sports Leadership. Throughout the academic year, the children have been working on modules, working through gaining an insight into what makes a good leader, and what is required to plan and then deliver a sport session. During the year the children planned, supported and delivered a sports festival to a local special school, of which the children demonstrated excellent leadership skills, communication and empathy when working with the children.

Furthermore the group have been selected to lead sessions at Greenbank Sports Academy for other children with additional needs, again showing excellent leadership qualities. The children have feedback that as the course developed, they really enjoyed working with other children with additional needs and supporting them, and this helped to develop their own individual confidence. Pictured are the children after receiving their certificates from the Headteacher. Next year the children will all be progressing on to completing their level 2 award in sports leadership, and look forward to further developing the skills they have learnt. Children that completed the course are; Ben Clayton, Kieron Redgrift, Max Connolly, Harvie Bell, Harvey Riley, Callum McArthy, Amelia Welch, Rosian Wiggins, Leon Taitt and Oran McLachlan.

Ask WESS

If pupils are feeling worried, stressed or anxious they can 'Ask WESS' (the 'Woodchurch Email Support Service'). Every year we recruit pupils to complete the Peer Mentor Training so that they can wear their 'Ask Wess' badge with pride and be part of this amazing support service.

Miss Ashbrook and Miss Douglass, our school's new Learning Mentors, recently supported Miss Scott (Welfare and Counselling Officer), in the delivery of the training to over 100 pupils in years 7, 8, 9 & 10.

Being a trained peer mentor has massive benefits for those who do the training as well as those who email in for help. Feedback from this year's course included comments like:-

- I am looking forward to starting I am excited, proud of myself
- I have enjoyed this so much thank you
- The training helped me understand how to be a good listener and a good helper and I am happy that I became a part of ASK WESS
- I liked doing it - ASK WESS is a good campaign that helps teenagers with any problems
- The training was helpful
- I feel that the training was really beneficial and now I could help people who are in need

Research shows that peer support can be as equally, if not more valuable to teenagers than help from an adult. Feeling able to relate to a 'peer helper' gives young people confidence that their issues will be heard and understood. All this safe in the knowledge that all emails will be assessed prior to being seen by the Ask WESS team ensuring any risks or safeguarding concerns are handled by staff not the peer mentors.

Ask WESS

The training does cover lots of challenging issues, including what the pupils think are the skills and qualities needed to be a mentor, what issues young people face, and good and bad listening skills!

Our word clouds show what they came up with - clearly a very sensitive and talented bunch of young people!



Diary Dates

Autumn Half Term 2

Friday 20th October 2023	Staff Development Day (closed to pupils)
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023	Half Term
Monday 30th October 2023	School Open - pupils return
Tuesday 28th November 2023	Year 11 Form Tutor Evening
Wednesday 29th November 2023	Year 7 - 11 Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 14th December 2023	Farm Christmas Fair
Wednesday 20th December 2023	Christmas Assemblies
Friday 22nd December 2023	School Closes
Monday 25th December 2023 - Friday 5th January 2024	Christmas Holidays
Monday 8th January 2024	School Open - pupils return

