
Newsletter - December 2023

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him”.

Roman 15:13

From Ms Phillips



It has been an absolute pleasure to serve the Woodchurch community for 32 years, 15 as Headteacher of which we have a highly successful school, which is year on year oversubscribed. This is due to the outstanding work of our staff, Governors and pupils and the support of you, our parents and carers. I am confident that under the leadership of Mr Canham, the school will flourish and thrive, building on it's previous success.

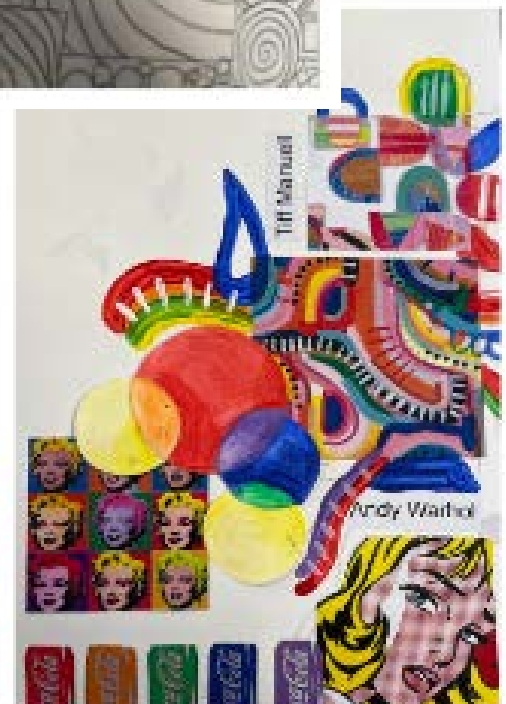
Thank you again and I wish you all the very best for the future.

Art

Year 7 Elements of Art

In a whirlwind of creativity and imagination, the Year 7 pupils have successfully completed an engaging and enlightening project focused on the elements of art. Pupils have worked in their sketchbooks and enjoyed the process of exploring each element and the relevant artist that links to the chosen theme.

Each page of their sketch book highlighted pupils individuality and demonstrated vibrant sketches and links to their chosen artists.



Art

Year 8 Portraits

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Asha Ellis - 8YN

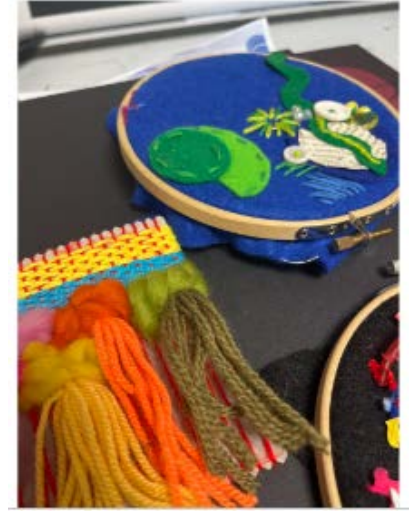
Year 9 'Figures of Hope'

Year 9 pupils have just completed their individual final figures based on their research they carried out on the artist and sculptor Antony Gormley. The pupils had discussions regarding their hopes and ambitions for their future, linking it to the theme 'Figures of Hope' and these are visible in sections on their artwork.



Art

Year 10 Art Textiles Memphis Candy



Art Textiles year 10 students have taken inspiration from the vibrant world of Candy Memphis. Students, influenced by textile designer Elizabeth Pawls and iconic Memphis art, have fused colors and textures from the candy and Memphis design movement.



Art

Year 10 Art Photography - Destroy

Year 10 Photographers have been busy destroying their own photos!!!
Don't worry though they are taking inspiration from two different photographers, John Rankin and Loui Jover.

The pupils are absolutely loving this project and the proof is in their very creative outcomes. Well done Year 10!



Art

Year 10 Fine Artists share their inspiration!

As part of their Centre Assessed Exam this term, Year 10 Fine Artists have been independently researching artists who use animals as a theme in their artwork.

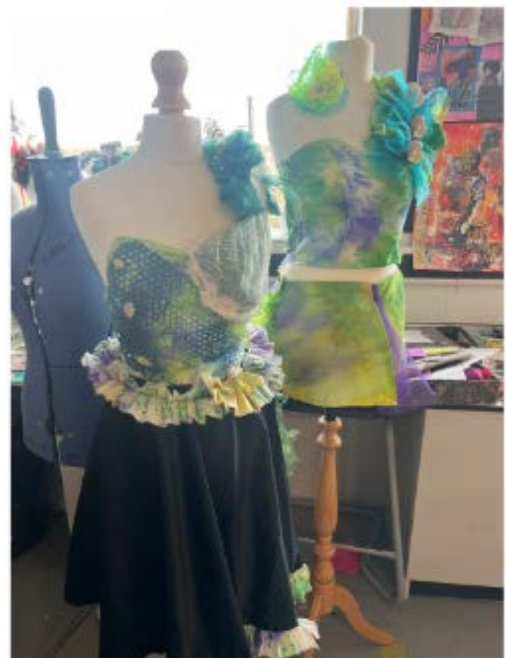
Pupils have worked creatively to develop their own Research Boards, annotating information about the artists and giving their own personal opinions of the artist's work!



Art

Year 11 Art Textiles. Secrets of the Ocean

GCSE Textiles students unit 1 project has seen students explore the secrets of the ocean. Inspired by iconic designers Alexander McQueen and Iris van Herpen, our pupils have delved into the depths of creativity. Using the vibrant colors and intricate textures found in the ocean, their outcomes have been really creative and individual. Highlighting the students mixed media skills.



English

Scholastic Book Fair

We were lucky enough this half term to host a Scholastic Book Fair where pupils across the school were invited to browse, purchase and discuss a range of books. A number of pupils attended and purchased books to take home. Through this, we were able to earn commission for the school to purchase new books for the library. A huge thank you to all those who participated and supported the book fair!

Equality and Diversity

At the end of November, Woodchurch High School hosted Equality and Diversity week. In English, pupils explored poetry written by poets from a breadth of different cultures and backgrounds. Through this, pupils were given a window to new experiences and were able to write their own poetry to reflect their experiences and culture. Ms Griffiths would like to personally congratulate Lacey-Mae Unwin for fantastic poem that she created during one of these lessons which was even read out to an audience! Please take time to read it!

They aren't normal.
Because they like the same gender, for some reason I'm offended.
They should be ashamed.

They aren't normal.
Because that boy would like to be a girl and that girl wants to be a boy and one would like to be neither.
They are ungrateful.

They aren't normal.
We shouldn't let them in because of the colour of their skin.
They look weird.

They aren't normal.
We should keep our distance since they use a wheelchair for assistance.
They aren't the same.

They aren't normal.
Despite the fact that it's true they are too, a human.

A human.

They aren't normal. No one is.
Because the truth is normal doesn't exist.

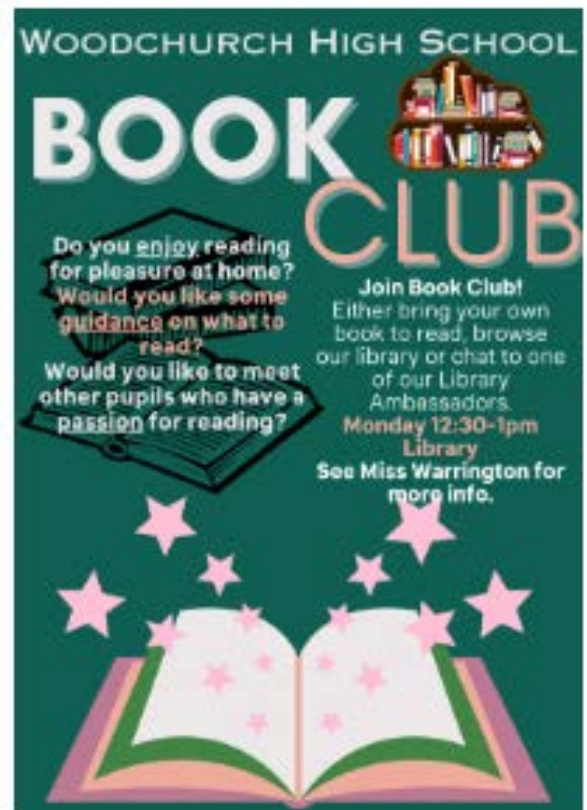
Everyone is different; it's something we should celebrate.
There is no reason for this judgemental hate.

If you have not listened please just listen to this verse. Everyone should be equal as everyone is diverse.

English

Book Club

This half term saw the launch of Book Club, an opportunity where pupils can visit the library during Monday lunchtime to read with like-minded people. Hosted by Library Ambassadors, Book Club is a chance to explore and develop a love of reading while getting advice around what to read.



Glitch competition

Pupils were invited this half term to enter the next national writing competition, 'Glitch'. With this title as a prompt, pupils were encouraged to enter a short story for consideration to be published in a book with other candidates from across the country.

Well done to all those who entered and we wish you the best of luck!

English

Macbeth trip

Thirty pupils attended a trip with Ms Griffiths to watch a contemporary production of Macbeth and had a fantastic time! Not only was this excellent for revision, but also allowed the pupils to explore how a play like Macbeth might be interpreted for the stage. Pupils were very excited and had a brilliant time on the trip.



The Woman in Black trip

At the end of the half term, thirty Year 8 pupils attended a trip to watch a local production of The Woman in Black with Ms Calder. Pupils were very excited to see the Woman in Black herself and get scared all over again by the excellent production!

English

Year 7

As we are nearing the end of the Autumn term, year 7 students are moving on from studying Oliver Twist. All students completed an assessment and showed resilience as they sat their first independent examination of the year. Miss Blackwell would like to mention Jessie Meers for her commitment to learning and homework, and Dylan Parry for his excellent engagement in lessons. Miss Hastings would also like to nominate Bailey White for his consistent enthusiasm for studying Oliver Twist and always wanting to know what happens in the next chapter! Year 7 are now focusing on their descriptive writing skills in the lead up to their next assessment before Christmas.

Many students have entered 'The Glitch' writing competition which is open until the end of term to all students aged 11-18. Ms Atkinson would like to mention Michael Davies' outside the box inspiration for his short story. Year 7 looked at poetry to celebrate Equality and Diversity week, engaging with this subject matter with sensitivity and thoughtfulness. Mrs Goaten would like to celebrate Tristyn Phillips for his excellent contributions to discussion, his engagement, and his resilience during independent work.

In January, students will begin looking at non-fiction writing with a focus on nature and the environment. Students will have the opportunity to engage with speeches by Greta Thunberg in the context of the power of speeches to enact social reform. Students have access to the subject site to assist their learning, which they are encouraged to use for any support with homework, or opportunities to consolidate their learning.

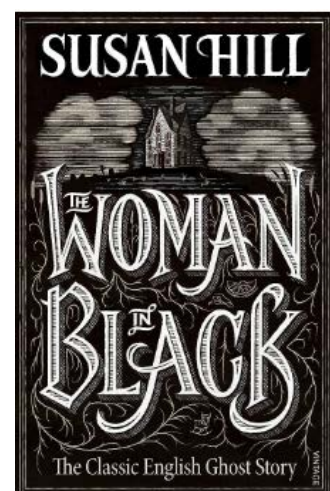
English

Year 8

Throughout term two, Year 8 have been working exceptionally hard finishing their study of Hill's gothic novel, *The Woman in Black*. Mr Power would like to particularly praise Zack Hughes who, since the start of the Autumn term, has made excellent progress in his studies - keep up the good work Zack!

As the term has progressed, Year 8 have tracked and analysed how Hill has created and built up tension throughout her story at the different stages of the narrative and have used such ideas and techniques when writing their own narratives alongside their study of the set text. Students have especially enjoyed reading Hill's ending or resolution where plot twists have been finally revealed to us as readers, inspiring pupils' ideas when concluding their own narratives themselves. Miss Gooding would like to specifically congratulate Mia-Elise Williams this term for her enthusiastic participation in class and excellent effort in independent practice in lessons when constructing stories and analysing the text.

Pupils will be using all ideas and techniques explored throughout the term so far in preparation for their upcoming narrative writing assessment. To further prepare for this, pupils should access the Subject Site to ensure they are confident in their narrative writing skills and writing stories with underlying tension.



Next term, Year 8 will be starting their Shakespeare studies - in particular, *Much Ado About Nothing*. To be as prepared as they possibly can, students are recommended to watch the film over their Christmas break to start building up their knowledge of the play beforehand.

English

Year 9

As the Autumn term has progressed, Year 9 students have finalised their comprehensive reading study of *Of Mice and Men* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* and have moved onto a narrative writing focus. Students have used an array of poetry as stimuli for their narrative writing, including Thomas Hardy's 'A Wife in London' and Rupert Brooke's 'The Soldier', and have shown excellent effort and progress in their independent practice. Miss Gooding would like to congratulate Samuel Lawson especially for his incredible poem about A Wife in London.

***A Wife in London* by Samuel Lawson**

She sat beside the window, reflecting on what she had been told.

Before she could think, her car keys were in her hand and she was on the road.

She stopped atop a cliffside, and sat near the drop.

The letter and its hopes in her hands, her tears would not stop.

"We will go to the beaches!"

"We will travel far and wide!"

"Everywhere will feel like home,
When you are by my side."

Maybe she could join him

To dissolve among the stream.

"But it's better to go on," she thought,

"To fulfill my late husband's dream."

She packed her clothes and left her home,

With adventure in her stride.

The widow called Vanessa,

A letter as her guide.

She went on across the globe,

To places both quiet and loud.

Beaming even in her final moments,

Her husband would be proud.

To conclude this term, students have completed a final assessment wherein they have written a narrative using a range of techniques that they have studied over the course of their high school career, such as tension techniques studied in the Year 8 *The Woman in Black* and descriptive writing techniques in the Year 7 *Oliver Twist* syllabus. Throughout this term, Mr Power has identified that Lucy Allen has been consistently working hard, both with the reading and narrative writing elements of Language, and that Amelia Clayton's constant positive energy and enthusiasm for English has led to significant progress in the subject.

Next half term, Year 9 will be studying Robert Swindells' *Stone Cold* wherein they will revisit how to approach a contemporary Literature question, building on their knowledge from the Year 8 *Blood Brothers* syllabus. As always, students should access the Subject Site to support their independent revision and are encouraged to talk to their teachers for any support, guidance or advice whenever needed.

English

Year 10

During Autumn 2, Year 10 have continued their studies around Macbeth, completing the play in its entirety and delving deeply into the complexities of both the play itself and the Jacobean context in which it was written. Students have worked well to learn quotations and embed these into their written work to fully meet the requirements of the Literature mark scheme.

Ms Topham and Miss Smethurst would like to congratulate Lyla Proctor, Sienna Atherton and Mackenzie Wooley for their continued effort and dedication to their studies of English, and the outstanding work that they have consequently produced when answering Macbeth essay questions.

In order to support their independent learning, students have been using the Subject Site appropriately and effectively to support their revision. Miss Wilson would like to highlight Daisy Sutton's achievements in this area as she has prepared excellent revision notes to support her independent study and utilised these effectively to write a fabulous Banquo essay. Additionally, both Joe Davies and Keeley Ormond have demonstrated an incredible effort with regards to their GCSE English studies, consistently seeking out additional revision resources and support so that they can make as much progress as possible! In order for students to continue to thrive with their independent learning, Miss Smethurst has created a series of videos, called Literature Shorts, which are accessible on the English Subject Site. These videos are 5 minute long revision resources which guide students through independent learning and provide support with regards to themes, plot, character development and context. Students can use these in addition to the KPLC to support their understanding of Macbeth.

Finally, students have demonstrated endurance through their Centre Assessed Examinations, showing the depth of their understanding and analysis skills. As students move into the next half term, the skills which they have honed throughout the Autumn term will be transferred into the next programme of learning: Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

English

Year 11

This term, Year 11 have continued with their English Language studies, moving on to exploring Component 2, non-fiction reading and writing, studying various text types that are written with a specific purpose and for a particular audience. Miss Blackwell has been especially impressed with Lexi-May Barker-Wellings and Evelyn Williams' commitment to learning this term and their dedication towards their English studies. Such dedication has also been shown by Year 11 collectively with their consistent participation in Period 6, showing great progress overall, especially for their additional study and independent learning in preparation for their upcoming GCSEs. Miss Wilson would also like to celebrate Abigail Charlton's fantastic personal story that she has created - simply amazing work, keep it up! Miss Warrington has been impressed with 11YEn2's engagement with their Spoken Language assessment, especially Alexandra Wallace and Leo Campbell for their engagement with serious topics.

Students should continue with their outstanding attitude and commitment to learning, ensuring that they are taking full advantage and fully utilising the English Subject Site to further support their independent learning at home. As always, pupils are encouraged to ask and speak to their teachers for support and guidance when and wherever needed.

Subject Sites

Pupils can access a wealth of resources on the English Subject Site that will aid with their preparation, learning and revision. As part of independent learning, pupils will be directed to certain aspects of the Site by their class teachers but should take some time to explore the Site independently to make the most of the resources available. Please use the link below to access the English Subject Site:

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

Humanities

Geography

Year 11 are on to Paper 2 looking at issues in urban areas. In this we study Rio in Brazil and look at the opportunities, challenges and solutions to urban problems. There has been a focus on exam technique in this term and pupils have improved their extended written responses in preparation of the upcoming exams

Pupils should be making use of the subject sites and Google classroom, which has a section on how and what to revise and a check your knowledge section that has been added in December to aid with revision and exam support. In the link below you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed.

[Geography GCSE subject site.](#)

Year 10 are moving on to study the coastal environment looking at how the coastline is impacted by the waves and the issues this can cause such as landslides and coastal erosion and flooding. In the link below you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed.[Geography GCSE subject site.](#)



Year 9 are learning about the Middle East, and how perception of this area compares with reality. In this unit we will cover human rights in Qatar, the growth of Dubai and how these Oil producing countries are aiming to become sustainable for the future by looking at the futuristic development of the Line. Support on this is on the subject site by clicking on the link [Year 9 Geography.](#)

Humanities

Geography

Year 8 are looking at Conflict In this unit we look at the causes of war and how geography plays a part. We study water conflict in the USA, blood diamonds in central Africa and the present conflict in Ukraine.

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



Year 7 have started looking at natural hazards. In this unit we will be looking at the violent earth and how earthquakes and volcanoes are formed along with their impacts on both humans and the environment. Pupils will understand how humans have come to live in areas at risk of tectonic hazards. Support is available on the subject site by clicking on the link [Year 7 Geography](#).



History

We have been continuing to develop some of our new units in History at Woodchurch over the past half term.

Year 7 have begun studying a unit all about Medieval Britain, focusing on how powerful monarchs were in the Middle Ages, and how that impacted the people of England.

Year 8 have been learning about how power shifted away from monarchs in the period 1500-1750 towards parliament and the people.

Year 9 have been finding out about how the industrial revolution led to a mass migration of people from the countryside to the towns in Britain, and the impact this had on peoples' working and living conditions. Students have responded well to these units in class.

Our Subject Site is under review and gradually, more and more of our Site will be populated with material for our Key Stage Three learners. In the meantime, there are a vast array of wonderful resources for Key Stage Three on BBC Bitesize, which pupils should use to further their independent learning.



Humanities

History

GCSE

Years 10 and 11 have continued to study the development of medicine in Britain between c.1250 and the present day. After Christmas we will be completing this unit and moving on to our second unit on Germany 1918-1939.

Our Subject Site for Key Stage Four is being developed all of the time, and we are now happy to report that all materials under the GCSE section are relevant to our current exam board and topics, so pupils should feel confident to use this to access a whole host of learning materials with which to study beyond the classroom.

Ideas to support learning even further

There are a whole range of really fantastic things that you could be doing as a family to support independent learning at home. Some examples are here:-

- For GCSE, the film about the rise of Adolf Hitler is excellent at giving an overview of the early period in our next topic of study. Hitler: The Rise of Evil

<https://youtu.be/opchjf3vzQk?feature=shared>

- For Key Stage Three, finding out about local histories such as the story of Port Sunlight, Birkenhead in the industrial revolution, Norton Priory, or the role of Merseyside in the Transatlantic Trade are all useful research topics for you to engage with.

Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 7 - Year 7 have continued to become Christianity experts in Religious Studies, this half term. They have been looking at different celebrations such as marriage and baptism and how these are celebrated in church. Our students have also been learning about the worship, pilgrimage and special Christian festivals - Christmas and Easter. Some Year 7 students will be going on a trip after the Christmas break. They will be visiting a local church. Don't forget to bring your letters back to Mrs Murphy!
You can access the Subject Sites [here](#)



Year 8 - Year 8 have furthered their understanding about how Christians put their faith into action by doing in depth case studies on some important Christian figures - looking at the life and work of Mother Teresa, Martin Luther King and Oscar Romero. They have also learnt about Christian Aid and the Tearfund charities. You can access the Subject Sites [here](#)



Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 9 - Year 9 have been learning how to become good stewards of our wonderful world during their work on the Environment. They have been looking at the local and global environment and the issues our world faces, as well as planning their own charities that could combat issues such as climate change and animal rights. The Subject Sites can be accessed [here](#)



Year 10 - Year 10 have been working incredibly hard and have recently sat their second RS assessment. They have shown real commitment by completing their homework and revising. Year 10 have now moved on to the second topic in their Philosophy and Ethics paper - this is Issues of Life and Death. Over the coming weeks they can look forward to studying some very topical and ethical issues. The Subject Sites can be accessed [here](#)

Year 11 - Year 11 edge ever closer to their GCSE exams. This half term has seen our students moving towards the end of their study of Judaism, in preparation for beginning a programme of supervised and guided revision. Year 11 have their mock exams after the Christmas break. They will be issued with 3 revision booklets to help them with their revision for their RS exam. They will be sitting 3 individual papers, to reflect the real GCSE's starting in May. The Subject Sites can be accessed [here](#)



MFL

“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 10 Centre Assessed Exams Listening and Reading

Year 10 students have recently completed their Centre Assessed Exams in Reading and Listening and will be acting on feedback and celebrating successes in lessons. Well done Year 10 on showing incredible endurance and wisdom.



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

MFL

Year 11 Reading and Listening Centre Assessed Exams

Year 11 will be completing their Centre Assessed Exams after the half term.

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.

Equality and Diversity week

YAs part of Equality and Diversity week, students and staff competed against each other to win our Duolingo Chinese and Ukrainian leagues, in celebration of the languages some of our students speak at home. Congratulations to Mr Hughes and Miss Goaten who won the staff competition and Christopher Greenwood and Pak Yan Ho who won the student competitions.





Linguists of the Month

Year 7

Lilly-May Dollery
Faith Smith
Ruby-Grace
Hannaford
Max Wharton
Luca Taylor
Macey Lally

Aiken Rosite
Joseph Dejarme
Faith Ellis - Wilson
Lamin Darboe
Isaac Harding

Junior Connolly
Summer Bryant
Matteo Perez Cuestas
Brohgan Davies
Ilan Benzerfa-Rosabal

Year 8

Oliver D'Elia
Annabel Champion
Charles Innes
Zoe Blanarikova-Smycka
Manuelina Amoako-
Ohene

Kaitlyn Ormond
Myla-Louise Morrison
Leah Fox
Nick Ng
Maddie Brown

Grace Stratton
Layla Bentley
Charlie Osbourne
Briyla-Mae Woods

Year 9

Laelia Dennett
Patrick Evans
Noah Bennett
Christopher
McDermott
Anina Owusu

Will Bolton
Ben Hickson-Evans
James Collinson
Evie Winstanley
Olive Weston

Lucy Jones
Harrison Chapman
Scarlett-Louise Ogden
Nathan Jackson
Ash Walmsley

Year 10

Sienna Atherton
Grace Prescott

Alice Grievson
Olivia Fishwick

Olivia Gonzalez
Joe Roberts

Year 11

Emily Wilson
Finlay Kennedy

Alexandra Wallace

Olivia Mearns



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

Lily Upton, Lennon Philips
Savannah Nuttall, Sofia Hilton
Mia Barham, Carmen McIntyre
Nancy Hall, Millie Stewart
Ellie Kennedy, Nathan Jones

Year 7 French Music Club

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

Duolingo

Mrs Lewis is running a Duolingo competition, every Friday lunch time in MFL6 for anybody who wishes to come along and learn a new language.

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'.

Science

Year 7

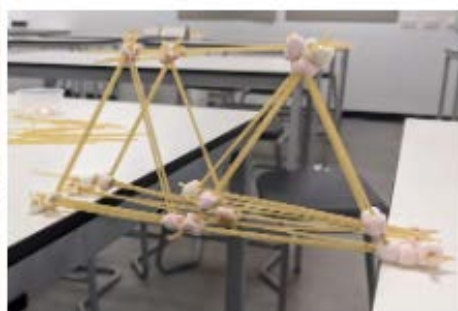
This half term, our year 7 students have been immersed in the captivating world of chemistry.

They have delved into the concepts of separating mixtures and explored the fundamental building blocks of our universe; elements, compounds and mixtures. Through hands-on experiments, our young scientists have been able to see in front of their eyes how these theories can be brought to life



Science Club

Science club (Monday's, Sc9, 3:20-4:20pm) continues to be very popular. Over the last few weeks, students have been very excited to build spaghetti bridges, mould plasticine boats and create their very own indicators. It is not too late to join us - please come along!



Science

Year 8

Our year 8 biologists have been exploring the process behind life creation. Through engaging discussions and respectful conversations, our students have demonstrated a commendable level of maturity.



Students started right at the beginning with how life begins at fertilisation all the way up to puberty. We were then able to link this to the exciting news of a new endangered eastern black rhino calf being born at Chester Zoo.

100% Club

Year 7 and Year 8 students have been learning about artificial intelligence during their 100% club assemblies this half term. Through an interactive presentation, they explored how AI can be used positively for fields such as medicine development. The government is trying to regulate it to keep us safe.



Science

Year 9



Our year 9 scientists have been introduced to the astonishing variety of species and ecosystems that make up our planet. We have had thought provoking discussions about preserving biodiversity, understanding the delicate balance between different organisms and recognising the impact of human activities on the natural world.

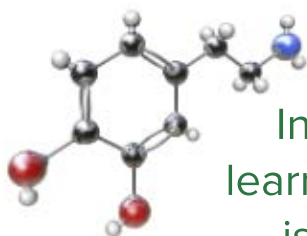
Year 10

Year 10 have sat their first GCSE style exam papers in the examination hall over this half term. To prepare for this, many pupils have engaged with the online revision planner that included completing additional Educake quizzes to test their understanding of all topics taught so far this year. Attendance at revision sessions, both in person and asynchronous online revision has been very positive as Year 10 continue to embrace their learning.

In Biology lessons pupils have begun to learn about the organisation of organs and organ systems beginning with the digestive system and another required practical: this time testing foods for different nutrients.



Chemistry lessons have moved onto bonding where pupils are applying their learning of atomic structure to understand how elements react to form compounds.



In Physics lessons pupils have begun to study electricity, learning how current is the flow of charge and how resistance is affected by the length of a wire in their first resistance required practical.

Science

Year 11

In the New Year our Year 11 pupils will be sitting their Centre Assessment Examination which will be a complete GCSE paper 1 for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. To support them in their preparation for these assessments they have been following a ten week long revision planner which has broken all of the topics required into manageable chunks for their revision.



Whilst the pupils have revised independently at home, new learning to prepare for paper 2 has continued in Science lessons. In Biology the pupils have completed the homeostasis topic and have begun to study inheritance and the genome to learn how DNA influences our characteristics.

In Chemistry lessons pupils have learnt how hydrocarbons from crude oil are separated into products such as petrol, diesel and kerosene through fractional distillation and cracking.

In Physics pupils are near to the end of the Forces topic, investigating acceleration using the frictionless air track for their required practical and learning factors that affect braking distance- learning that should stay with them throughout their life.



Science

Educake

Students are continuing to impress science staff with their dedication to their Educake homework and are noticing a huge improvement in their understanding of concepts in lessons.



We have launched our very first 'Educake Tea Party' this term to celebrate those pupils that have shown the most endurance with their homework. These pupils will be taken off timetable for hot chocolate, cake and an Educake goody bag!



Autumn Term Winners

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Poppy Grainger (1473)	Ruby Walker (2854)	Evelin Jinoy (2459)	Yuet Long Leung (2501)	Kayleigh Steens (2799)
Alfie Talman (1155)	Madeleine Brown (2340)	Benjamin Philpotts (1958)	Jison Wong (2036)	James Wright (2582)
Mia Davies (974)	Charlie Osbourne (1403)	Daniel Nabong (1487)	Niamh Nixon (1960)	Tara Clerkin (2285)
Jessica Parker (932)	Samuel Glaister (1319)	Kayin Lam (1251)	Olivia Fishwick (1927)	Harry Seaton (1709)
Faith Ellis-Wilson (868)	Finlie Bell (1011)	Marcia Takuva (1186)	Belle Liu (1718)	Lucy McDonough (1645)

Careers and Guidance

Year 11

We have had a busy schedule of events and have had many Post 16 providers visiting school. Provision has included presentations to Y11 during assembly times by Weatherhead Sixth Form and Liverpool City College. There have also been lunchtime drop-in sessions from Wirral Metropolitan College, Weatherhead Sixth Form, Cheshire College, Coleg Cambria, LLS and the Armed Forces. All of which have provided our pupils with an opportunity to discuss their options for Post 16 and potential career pathways. There has also been focused group talks around A Levels, Nursing and Health Care.

Forthcoming events are displayed in form rooms listing the dates our Career Advisor is available, forthcoming talks, open evenings at Post 16 providers and details of drop down days. This information is also available on the Careers Subject Site. Details of events and sign up sheets are also available outside our office.

Pupils are also able to book an interview with our Career Advisor, Mrs Tomlinson, in order to receive one to one careers guidance. Parents/carers are welcome to attend upon request. Pupils should sign up on the sheets outside our office.



Careers Library

All year groups are encouraged to visit our Careers Library which has information available on Post 16 providers, apprenticeships and local training providers. Our notice board has details of upcoming events and volunteering opportunities.

Careers and Guidance

Year 10

In November a group of Y10 pupils visited a careers event at The Hive which gave pupils an opportunity to speak to Post 16 providers and local employers.

On 21st December we held Y10 Enterprise Day which was really successful and we had a range of outside providers involved in the day.

Work experience takes place 12th February 2024 to 16th February 2024 and this is a last call for any outstanding self placements which must be returned by the end of the first week back, 12th January 2024. This means we have adequate time to undertake the necessary statutory safeguarding checks, health and safety checks and insurance checks.

Career Champions

Also this December we have launched our Y7 and Y8 Career Champions who will be on hand to help with Career Events and also to let us have any ideas that they have around Careers.



Well Done to:

Maisie Dodd

Zak Lynch

Charlie Norris

Nathan Jones

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.

Charity

Dementia Together Wirral

Some of our pupils performed for 70 people at the lunch for Dementia Together on 12th December at Carr Farm Garden Centre. Songs included were Rocking around the Christmas tree, Baby it's cold outside, Holy Night and Here it is Merry Christmas.



We received a thank you from the charity:

This is a message of sincere thanks to the pupils and teacher who provided the musical entertainment for our Dementia Together Wirral Christmas Lunch at Carr Farm on Tuesday 12th December.

The singing and musicians were excellent, adding some lovely festive spirit to our occasion. I appreciate how busy teachers and pupils are at this time of year, and I know that making arrangements for pupils to be transported with their instruments is not straightforward. Please pass this message onto the staff and pupils. Many thanks

Collective Worship

As we approach Christmas, we reflect on what we have looked at in our Collective Worship this term, and the wonderful things that have taken place.

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

As we've approached Christmas, our Collective Worship has been focused on the real meaning of Christmas. As we approach Christmas we will all be thinking about different things; but whatever we might be thinking about, most people agree that presents are a big part of Christmas. We've been thinking about the gifts we might give and receive if we were in heaven's living room.

The first gift is given to you. God the Father could have given you anything. What he chose to give you, all of us, is the most precious gift he has and the gift we most need. He chose to give us clarity, so that we could know there was more to this life, know that we have value and know that we are loved. The gift that God the Father has given us not a thing, but a person. He has given us his Son as a baby, who was known as Jesus but also had the name Immanuel, which means "God with us."

The next exchange you see is God the Son giving a gift to his Father. It's an incredible gift... pure goodness. A perfect life. What the Bible calls 'righteousness'. The Son gives to The Father the life that he lived as a baby, as a child and as a man – a life in which every moment, what he thought and said and did, pleases his Father. This kind of righteous living matters to God, and it matters for us, because we are all made in God's image, to relate to him and reflect his character. We may not care about this, but it matters to God, and that's why this gift from the Son is perfect.

Collective Worship

But now it's your turn to give a gift... you look at what you have to offer, and whether your life looked good, bad or otherwise at first, when you compare it to the perfect gift that the Son gave, it just doesn't match up, and you start to feel nervous and walk away. This living room is a perfect place and your life isn't; this is the place that you were made for, that you would love to enjoy forever; the best parts of your life in this world are mere glimmers of this place, but you look at your life, and it's not perfect, so you know you can't stay. But before you reach the door, Jesus speaks to you, and he gives you an offer... to add your name to the tag on the gift that he gave, to give that gift to the Father from both you and him, and he'll get rid of your gift and deal with it. Will you take the offer? Of course you will! And so, you give Jesus' gift to the Father together with him, and the Father looks at you, smiles and says, "You're my child, who I love. With you I am well pleased."

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



Equality & Diversity

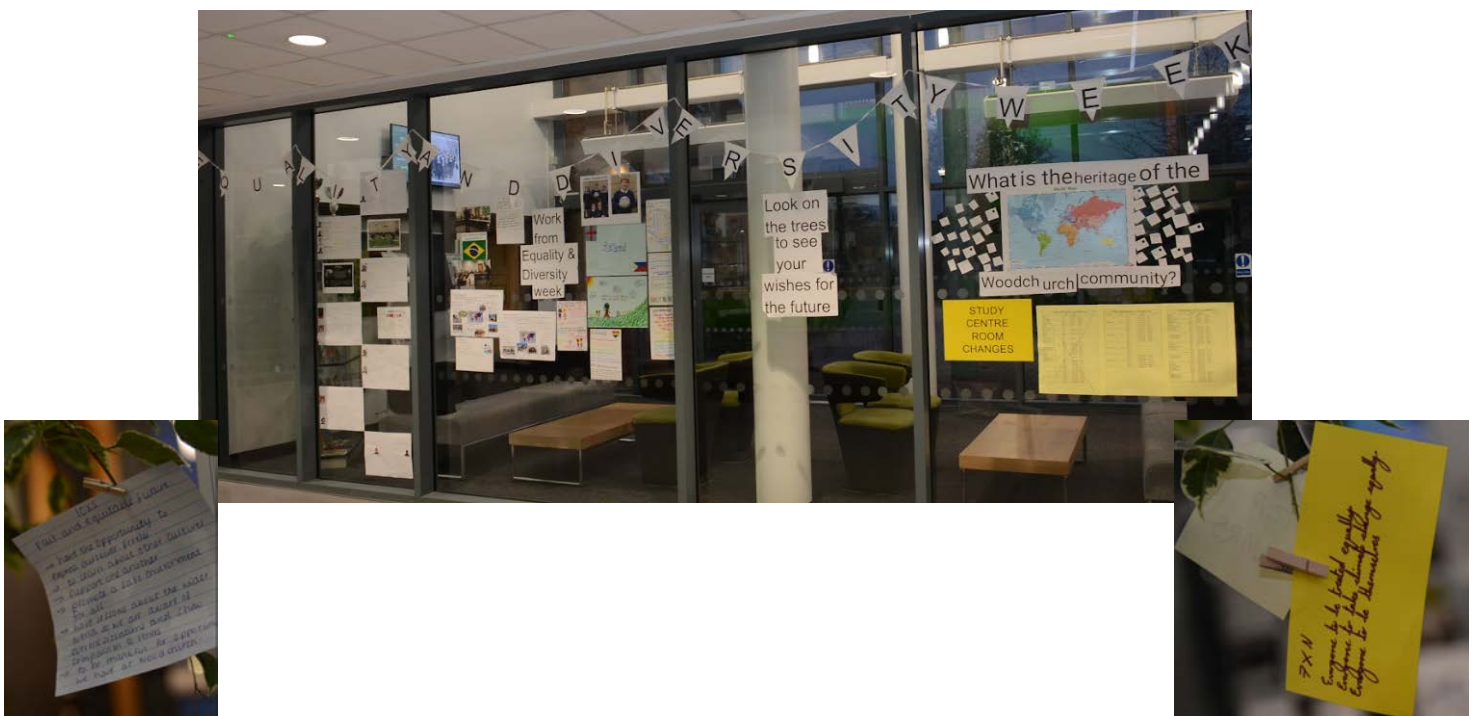
Woodchurch had an Equality & Diversity week in school from 27th November to the 1st December.

There were all sorts of different activities in the school to celebrate diversity. These included a heritage map in the foyer where children of non British heritage were added to celebrate their lineage; the trees in the foyer had the wishes of each form for a fair & equitable future and rainbow ribbons were given out each day.

In lessons there were different activities and work displayed in the main foyer. PE did some Gaelic football and sitting volleyball; English did some Equality & Diversity poetry, Maths & Science looked at famous figures from ethnic minorities from their past and MFL covered languages that some of our pupils may speak (such as Cantonese, Shone etc...)

The week ended with a pupil reading out her Equality & Diversity poem over the Tannoy to the whole school

Action For Children came in to support and were so impressed with the displays in the foyer that they took pictures to post on their instagram pages.



Farm

It's been a busy time on the farm of late. On the 3rd of November we welcomed a new Ram, Liam Fleeceson (yes, that really is his name!), to stay with us as a temporary resident here on the farm. Liam is what's known as a 'Tup', which means he had a very specific job to do, to get some of our ewes (female sheep) pregnant so we can have some more lambs born next year. Liam was very kindly loaned to us from a flock called Tinkerblack Livestock, near Preston.



Their owner, Jodie Richardson, is also a part of the Rare Breed Survival Trust (as we are) and helps people to keep their flocks of North Ronaldsay sheep growing by lending out her rams. We're very thankful to Jodie for her help with our breeding program this year. Liam was a very lovely boy with an extremely friendly personality, a beautiful fleece, perfect horns, everything you could want in a North Ronaldsay sheep. It's fair to say he had a bit of a cheeky side too! He loved nothing more than a bit of attention from our staff and pupils and would regularly wag his tail with glee if you managed to scratch just the right spot on his shoulders. We're very hopeful that Liam was successful, and that the lambs we get as a result will inherit his delightful character.



Farm

We've also had our annual Christmas Fair fundraiser, with a great crowd of families and friends of the school including The Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral joining us to do some Christmas shopping, enjoy some fabulous food, see some farm animals, and of course meet Father Christmas himself in his grotto. I must say a huge thank you to everyone who so generously gave up their time and donations to help make it another amazing event. We really couldn't do it without you all and as you know, every penny raised goes directly to the animals here on the farm. We don't know the final total just yet as we've still got a few bits to come in (the fair only happened last night at time of writing this), but early indications are very promising. Thank you all and Merry Christmas from the whole team and all the animals.



SEND

Our school was chosen to represent Wirral in the SEND Merseyside Regional Panathlon Challenge games at Greenbank Sports Academy.

Our pupils produced some great displays in boccia, new age kurling, polybat, football and various indoor athletics activities. It was a close fought competition with great endurance and compassion shown throughout the day. However Woodchurch eventually came in as champions, winning by 2 points.

A great day for all involved.



Diary Dates

Spring Half Term 1

Friday 22nd December 2023

School closes

Monday 25th December 2023 -
Friday 5th January 2024

Christmas Break

Monday 8th January 2024

School Open - pupils return

Tuesday 9th January 2024

Parental Ski meeting 5pm
Main Hall

Wednesday 10th - Friday 26th
January 2024

Year 11 Exams

Thursday 25th January 2024

Year 9 Options Taster Evening

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February
2024

Year 10 Work Experience

Wednesday 14th February 2024

Year 9 Option Day

Friday 16th February 2024

School Closes

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd
February 2024

Half Term Holidays

Monday 26th February 2024

School Open - pupils return