



WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL

A Church of England Academy



Established Excellence

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Chester

Newsletter - February 2024

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD,
“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future”.*

Jeremiah 29:11

From Mr Canham

As the final week of the half term draws to a close, we can reflect on what has been a short but very busy half term. It has been an exciting period in terms of new appointments and I am delighted to announce Ms Griffiths as our new Deputy Headteacher and Mrs Pettener as Assistant Headteacher. I am also pleased to inform you that Miss Barney and Ms Calder will be joint Curriculum Leads for English and I am confident they will continue to build on what's already an excellent curriculum area.

Year 11 had their Centre Assessed Exams (CAE) during the first two weeks of this half term. They have been presented with their results from these exams this week, in their Trial Exam Results Day on Thursday 15th February.



From Mr Canham

This has been a brilliant and stimulating week for Year 10 as they embark on their work experience placements and we have already received some excellent feedback from employers when staff members have visited our pupils at work!

It was fantastic to see so many parents and carers at the Year 9 taster evening in January and we had excellent engagement and attendance at this week's Option Choice Day on 14th February. Pupil's choices will be confirmed by email early next half term.

Year 8 continue to carry out their social action projects and charity work as part of the Archbishop of York award. Recently this has included:

- Cards of Hope given out in Birkenhead Town Centre
- Guest the number of sweets in the jar
- Valentine roses for sale

Year 7 have had their initial ambassadors presentation this week, this involved each subject area nominating students who have 'let their light shine' and consistently demonstrated our values throughout the year. Each pupil nominated will receive a subject badge and be part of the curriculum celebrations over the course of the year.

Thank you for all your continued support of Woodchurch High School as we move into the second half of the Spring term.

English

Young Writers - 'The Glitch'

Congratulations to the group of pupils who entered the recent Young Writers competition and had their writing selected to be published! This is a prestigious award and pupils will be able to purchase copies of the book that their work will be published in.

1. Ellie Kennedy - her second published piece!
2. Mia-Elise Williams her second published piece!
3. Abbie Swann
4. Jayden Stewart
5. Scott Cullimore
6. James Owens
7. Lyra Dobson
8. Ella Frost
9. Kaiden Edwards
10. Esme Hughes
11. Thomas Conway
12. Isabelle Crawford
13. Evelyn Purdie
14. Myles Smyth
15. Ben Bayley
16. Skyla Smith
17. Isabella Boyle
18. Ben Benson-Hayes
19. Geoffrey Branscombe
20. Hien Ho
21. Lily Trowler
22. Bella Mollard
23. Macie Gillam
24. James Price
25. Matteo Perez Cuestas



English

SPARKS

The SPARKS group have had a very positive term, starting with their 'Tea Time with Parents' event just before Christmas. Also, as a group they managed to raise money for our school charities and are making a trip to visit Liverpool Central Library and the World Museum in the middle of February.

The following pupils will be visiting with the Head on Tuesday 13th February to celebrate myriad successes:

- Imogen Connel - very good reading log evidence and helping raise money for our charity event.
- Emmy Coverdale - best reading log evidence and producing a book review.
- Charlie Knott - participating in sessions and excellent recall of reading.
- Leo Cole - good reading log
- Grace Stanley - most improved reader
- Harley Rylands - up and coming STAR

No Place Like Home - Art and Poetry Competition

If you didn't get a chance to enter into 'The Glitch' competition and still want the opportunity to enter a writing competition, maybe consider entering this new competition. Information can be found on the image below, or at the following website:

<https://sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/art/>



English

Year 7

As pupils in Year 7 entered their second term at Woodchurch High School, their work in English changed from a fiction to a non-fiction focus. Pupils have been learning about issues within nature and the environment, including farming, endangered animals and the impact of humans on climate change. Some classes took this opportunity to visit the school farm and engage with the animals and farmers to learn how the animals are cared for effectively. Pupils have then used all their new knowledge to write persuasive speeches, articles and letters to convince people of authority to help protect animals and the environment and campaign for change.

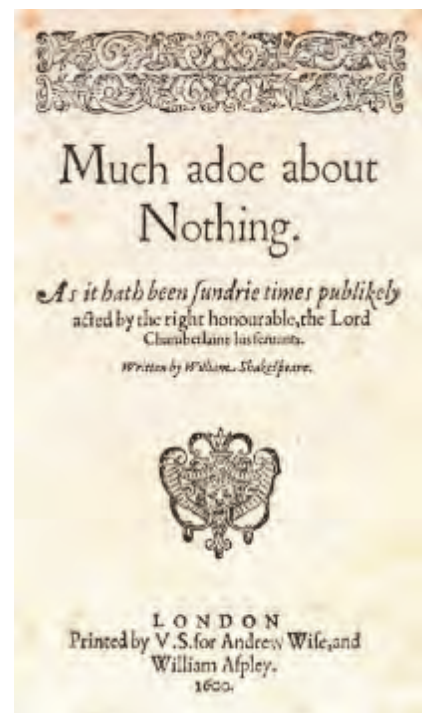


We would encourage pupils to continue to engage with these topics outside of school and discuss their opinions with their friends and family outside of school. Ella Rose in Miss Blackwell's class has inhibited excellent engagement and commitment to learning throughout this topic - well done Ella! Mrs Goaten would like to recognise Angel Whitehouse's endurance to produce high standards of classwork and homework at all times - keep up the good work! Lyra Dobson has displayed an excellent commitment to learning and application of the Christian Values in her lessons with Ms Allum!

English

Year 8

This term, the Year 8 English curriculum has seen a split study between Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and Unseen Poetry. The play's themes of love and the relationships between the main characters have seamlessly complemented the relationships explored within a series of unseen poems and pupils have been able to make these links successfully whilst studying both elements of the programme. Students have studied the likes of renowned poets such as Heaney and Armitage, and have grasped the approach to writing a personal response to such poems thoughtfully. We are extremely impressed with how Year 8 have taken to this challenge and explored a variety of poems that they have never read, seen or studied before.



Miss Hastings would like to recognise 8X2 for their absolute dedication in lessons and the wonderful work that has been produced. Esmail Luxton and Sujash Maheswaran have also been recognised by Mrs Goaten for their incredible efforts and contributions not only within class, but also through their independent learning. Miss Gooding would like to congratulate Pak Yan Ho for her continued engagement and enthusiasm in lessons and constant attention to her work. Well done Year 8! Ellie Ridley, Kaitlyn Ormond and Noah Clarke-Roberts from Miss Holden's class have worked diligently this half term to produce some excellent work!

Year 8 will continue to analyse both extracts from the play and unseen poems to prepare them for their assessment after our half-term break. Students should ensure they visit the English Subject Site in order to best prepare and revise for their upcoming and fast-approaching CAEs in the hall.

English

Year 9

Moving into the Spring term, Year 9 have maintained their Language focus but have shifted from fiction to non-fiction.

Continuing with the themes of conflict and marginalisation which were explored in the Autumn term, students have delved into and explored the rhetoric of influential figures from history, including Nora Ephron, Martin Luther King and Harvey Milk.



Students have been tasked with considering the emotional impact that these key figures have had upon their audiences, and carefully deciphered the purpose and intent behind their words. Both Miss Barney and Miss Calder would like to congratulate Willow Brookshaw and Millie McKenzie on their excellent engagement with and mature attitude towards this term's topics. Furthermore, Elyse Orford has been highlighted by Ms Topham for exploring Martin Luther King's speech in a unique and thoughtful manner, and Hannah Sharkey has created outstanding and thoughtful responses for both Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' and Emmeline Pankhurst's speech on women's rights. Miss Smethurst would like to recognise Ben Wilkinson's compassion when reading and responding to these influential speeches.

In the second half of the Spring term, students will utilise their understanding of what makes an effective speech from the first term in order to inform their ability to write a speech. Upon completion of their speeches, students will perform their speeches to the class, using their knowledge of how to be an effective speaker which has been encouraged throughout their Woodchurch career through the acronym 'SHAPE'. Students will use the feedback from their teachers to inform their areas of development prior to their GCSE Speaking exams in subsequent years.



English

Year 10

Year 10 have had an excellent start to the New Year and have shown great enthusiasm for A Christmas Carol in preparation for their GCSE English Literature qualification. As the term has progressed, students have been steadily working through the staves, taking great care in their consideration of characterisation, plot and structure. Students have also demonstrated excellent recall of their long term memory through their consideration of context when exploring the historical context of the Industrial Revolution and Victorian England, drawing upon their knowledge from topics previously studied in History and during Key Stage 3, specifically when studying Oliver Twist. As a department, we would like to congratulate Year 10 on their endurance this term and on the completion of not their assessment. Miss Barney would also like to highlight the excellent independent work that Yan Yin Liu has produced for her homework this term - great work!

As they progress into Spring 2, students will continue through their Literature syllabus by delving into the Eduqas Anthology of poetry, looking at a range of works from Thomas Hardy to Seamus Heaney. Within this study of poetry, students will be encouraged to explore a range of contextual time frames, poetic intent and structural forms. In order to take a proactive approach to their learning over the half term break, students can access the English Subject Site in order to learn about Romanticism and the Romantic poets, specifically poets such as William Blake, William Wordsworth, Lord Byron, Percy Shelley and John Keats.

English

Year 11

To begin with, the English department would like to offer a massive congratulations to all of Year 11 on completing their English Language Centre Assessed Examinations at the start of Spring 1. Students worked incredibly hard in the lead up to their examinations, showing their dedication in both lessons and Period 6. Miss Warrington's class even created and delivered presentations on the different themes in Macbeth to inform their revision and this proved an extremely useful task and point of recall. We are confident that all pupils will continue with their efforts and hard work as their GCSEs are fast approaching.

As we progress into Spring 2, students' focus will be shifting towards English Literature as they prepare to complete more Centre Assessed Examinations. Students should continue their revision within lessons, but also independently outside of the classroom. Miss Blackwell would like to particularly praise Lexi-May Barker Wellings for her continued engagement within her English studies.

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>

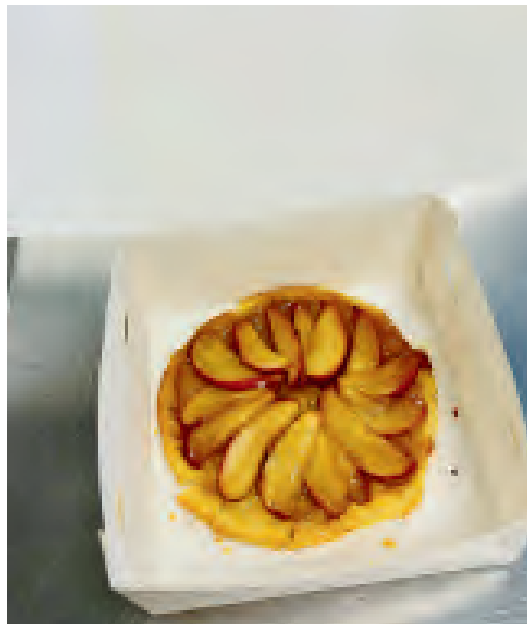
Food Technology

Pupils have been celebrating some key dates in Food this term.

Year 8 pupils in the Y band have been making noodle dishes in celebration of the Lunar New Year.



Year 10 pupils expanded their cultural capital this week with a pastry dish that originates from France. They made their own puff pastry and turned this into a Tarte Tatin!



Food Technology

In Year 9 and Year 11 pupils have been making pancakes. We looked at why Christians eat pancakes.

Why are pancakes eaten by Christians?

Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat (some Christians continue to do so, in fact). Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and what better way to do so than with a delicious pancake!

Pupils experimented with how they could add flavour to their pancakes and thought the lesson was ‘flipping’ great!



The Food department now have an instagram account ‘woodchurch_foodtech’ if you would like to follow us and see what we have been making.

Humanities

Geography

Year 11

Year 11 have just completed their centre bases assessment, pupils should use feedback from these exams to identify any gaps in their understanding in the final 9 weeks till the final exams start. Pupils should make use of the subject sites link below where you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed.

[Geography GCSE subject site.](#)

Year 11 have also carried out fieldwork to the Albert Dock in Liverpool, this involved collecting data on land use and how redevelopment/regeneration has benefited Liverpool. This forms part of their Paper 3



Year 10

Year 10 have started the next unit on natural hazards. Pupils have found the step up to GCSE challenging and have learnt that independent revision is required before taking exams. Pupils should make use of the subject sites link below where you will find short summary videos of the key learning needed.[Geography GCSE subject site.](#)

Year 9

Year 9 are close to completing the new unit on the Middle East looking at perceptions versus reality. So far they have learnt where the middle east is and why its called the middle east. We have looked at the controversies around Qatar hosting the World Cup such as LBGTQ+ rights and migrant workers. The pupils have enjoyed learning about Dubai and how it has changed from desert to rich city in just a generation. [Year 9 Geography.](#)



Humanities

Geography

Year 8

Year 8 are working through a unit about conflict, Pupils have looked at water issues in the USA and Aral sea, Blood diamonds in Africa, Palm oil in food. They will be looking at Somali Pirates and whale hunting in Norway. This has allowed pupils to reflect on our christian values and to see how they apply in the real world.

Year 8 Geography



Year 7

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



Humanities

History

Our Year 10 and 11 History pupils have started their final topic on Weimar and Nazi Germany - one they've been looking forward to studying in many cases, since they opted. We hope they will find the subjects as engaging and interesting as we do! Year 11 have been fortunate to have a History 'drop down day' this month, as we build upon prior learning in Year 10 to revisit some tricky topics in our Cold War Unit.

Key Stage Three pupils have begun some of our brand new units in History this half term. Year 7 are learning about why it was so difficult to be a medieval monarch - facing battles with The Church for power, a murder on their hands, stubborn barons, an epidemic and a rebellion!

Year 8 have begun a unit called 'How and why did Britain turn from green to grey?' learning about the changes of the industrial revolution. In it they will learn about how and why life changed for people as well as how Britain's place in the world changed as they became the world's leading economy and ultimately, built the biggest empire the world had ever seen.

Year 9 have really been enjoying their new topic on ‘What’s Franz got to do with Tommy from Woodchurch Road?’ as they delve into the difficulties and horrors of trench warfare in World War One.



Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 7

Year 7 have started their unit looking into the life of Jesus. In lessons they have been exploring the details of Mark's Gospel and the miraculous accounts of Jesus such as His birth, baptism, crucifixion, and the miracles He performed. Many Year 7 pupils accumulated on a trip to the local Holy Cross Church, where they explored the different features of the Church, played a part in baptising the special guest 'Ted', and some of them even took on the role of a priest and stood up on the pulpit to read aloud Biblical extracts. Year 7 pupils can continue their independent study by accessing the [Subject Site](#)

Year 8

Year 8 have started working through their new unit which teaches them all about Judaism. Within this unit, Year 8 have been exploring Jewish beliefs and practices such as the nature of God, Jewish festivals, Jewish laws, the afterlife, and the founders of Judaism. Many pupils accumulated on a trip to Chester Cathedral where they met and listened to Lady Milena Grenfell-Baines MBE give an extraordinary account of her life as a Holocaust survivor and how she was rescued via the Kindertransport. Pupils also got to participate in exciting workshops which resulted in them being able to tell the exceptional life story of Anne Frank. Year 8 pupils can continue their independent study by accessing the [Subject Site](#)

Year 9

Year 9 have begun looking into Christian responses to evil and suffering. In lessons, they explore what are considered to be different accounts of evil and why they happen. This has provided them with the opportunity to think philosophically to answer big questions like, 'If God is all loving and has the power to stop or prevent evil and suffering, then why doesn't He?'. They have been looking into the Biblical accounts of Adam and Eve and the fall of mankind, the story of Job to represent suffering being a test of faith, and much more. Year 9 pupils can continue their independent study by accessing the [Subject Site](#)

Humanities

Religious Studies

Year 10

Year 10 are continuing to work through the unit on Christian Beliefs. Within lessons they have been looking deeply into Biblical accounts which give reason as to why Christians have their beliefs. They have been exploring the accounts of Jesus in detail and exploring why He is the centre of Christian belief.

For example, pupils have been diving into the accounts of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, his ascension and incarnation, and how all of this led to salvation.

Year 10 can continue their independent study by accessing the [Subject Site](#)

Year 11

Year 11 have been continuing to look at Jewish practices. Here they have been exploring the different Jewish festivals and why they take place. For example, Hanukkah, Rosh Hashanah, and Passover. They should continue to work hard and complete independent study using the [Subject Site](#) in preparation for their exams, and they will all prevail!

Pupils in Year 11 who participate in the ASDAN course have been looking into the different things or people that cause people to be inspired. In lessons, they have been exploring how different settings in nature can inspire people just like religious buildings. Similarly, they have been researching religious role models and celebrities who inspire people



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 8 Translation Assessments

Year 8 pupils have recently completed a translation assessment and will be acting on feedback and celebrating successes in lessons. Well done Year 8 for your Commitment to Learning and endurance.

Year 11 Centre Assessed Exams

Year 11 students have recently completed their Centre Assessed Exams and will be acting on feedback and celebrating successes in lessons. Well done Year 11 on showing incredible endurance and wisdom.



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



Linguists of the Month

Year 7

Max Lord - Owens
Henry Dolan
Gracie Heath

Isaac Harding
Joshua NG

Erin Williams
Joseph Dejarne

Year 8

Aimee Rimmer
Cordelia Gleeson
Lucy Black

Grace Stratton
Aaron Bunnell
Roisin Wiggins

Pai Chai Bandid
Paige Lines

Year 9

Laelia Dennett
Patrick Evans
Jack Maddocks

Noah Bennett
Christopher McDermott
Will Smith

Angela Thazhathupuram
Mitchell Gore

Year 10

Sienna Atherton
Grace Jones
Evie Harper

Mikey Barlow
Erin Platts Coryn
Lacey Richardson

Stefan Pricop
Cayce Smith

Year 11

Luca Bradley

Lucy McKay

Emma Crilly



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

Leah Wynne
Toby Ormond
Finley Brown
Molly Taylor
Ashleigh Gluck
Max Lord-Owens
Charlie Volan
Finleigh Lavery
Macey Talman
Bethany Hayes

Duolingo

Mrs Lewis is running a Duolingo club, 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'.

PE

The Year 7 & 8 girls football team progress into the second round of the Wirral Cup after an exciting game that finished 4-4 with Woodchurch winning on penalties



PE Department extra-curricular timetable Spring term 2024

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BOYS CLUBS 3:15 – 4:30	Badminton & Table tennis Year 8 Super 6s (football)	Gym Club Year 7 Super 6s (football)	Basketball All years Rugby Year 7	Year 8, 9 & 10 Rugby	Fun Club
GIRLS CLUBS 3:15 – 4:30	Badminton & Table tennis Dance 7&8	Netball Year 7-10 Dance Year 10 BTEC	Gym Club Basketball All years	Netball Year 7-10	Fun Club

Performing Arts

Drama

Year 7

This half-term Year 7 have been exploring different forms of documentary drama and bringing historical events to life in performance. Pupils have explored the world of Pompeii and looked at the Boxing Day tsunami, devising their own performances based on both of these events. Pupils have worked really hard developing believable characters and have explored how to incorporate different techniques to create tension into their work. Well done, Year 7!



Year 8

This half-term Year 8 have been looking at different soap operas. Pupils have considered the key features of a soap opera and have worked on exploring different stereotypical characters you might find in some of our country's much loved soaps. We've loved watching Year 8 play these classic roles, from the much loved landlord or landlady to the evil villain - their use of exaggeration in particular has been really impressive! Keep it up, Year 8!



Performing Arts

Drama

Year 9

Year 9 have started their exploration of Mark Wheeler's *Game Over* and pupils have been incredibly mature when looking at this verbatim play. The play tells the story of fourteen year old Breck Bednar who was tragically killed by a boy he met gaming online. The play uses the real words from Breck's family and friends and we are really impressed with the way in which Year 9 have had complete compassion for these people and their stories. We're looking forward to working with Year 9 in their final term and beyond for those choosing drama next year.



Year 10

Year 10 students have made a fantastic start to their GCSE studies in Drama this year. Year 10 spent the first term exploring a range of theatre practitioners such as Stanislavski, Artaud, Brecht and Berkoff, all of which have influenced what theatre and performance looks like to us today. Year 10 spent time working on scripted performance as well as devising, utilising the styles and rehearsal techniques pioneered by a specific practitioner. This was a challenging module for pupils, however they demonstrated excellent endurance and resilience and remained open-minded about the possibilities of drama. Year 10 developed excellent collaboration and communication skills during the Autumn Term.

Performing Arts

Drama

Year 10

Year 10 then went on to start exploring our first GCSE text called 'DNA' by Dennis Kelly. It's a play about a group of teenagers, who could be described as a 'gang', who have accidentally killed one of their classmates. When they realise the terrible mistake they have made, they try to cover up this crime, but inadvertently implicate an innocent man in the process. Year 10 were challenged to perform scripted extracts from the play and have demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of the context the play is set in. Year 10 have also been using this text to practise Component 3 exam style questions in readiness for their Year 11 studies. Year 10 have shown an excellent commitment and drive to achieve this term and have tackled the theoretical side of the course with enthusiasm.

Year 10 will now begin to explore their first practical GCSE graded Component 1 devised project after half term and we are looking forward to seeing the pupils work collaboratively to develop their performances.



Performing Arts

Drama

Year 11

This term, Year 11 have been exploring their solo and partnered performances from extracts of plays in readiness for their Component 2 GCSE exam after half term. Year 11 have been exploring characterisation and artistic intention in scripted performance and have enjoyed working on a range of contemporary texts. Year 11 students have shown their talent and potential in this component and have demonstrated their outstanding performance skills in their mock exams and in-class rehearsals.

This term has also been challenging for Year 11 pupils as we have also been practising and learning the approach to the Component 3 written exam with a focus on the set text 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley. 'An Inspector Calls' is a play that revolves around the apparent suicide of a young woman called Eva Smith. In the play, the unsuspecting Birling family are visited by the mysterious Inspector Goole. He arrives just as they are celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling to Gerald Croft.

Year 11 have shown real endurance and motivation to achieve this term and have engaged in extra provision such as Period 6 and lunchtime drop-in rehearsals, showing their commitment and drive towards their studies. Many of our Year 11 Drama pupils have been successful at gaining places at college and many have been offered auditions at prestigious Drama Schools such as Liverpool Media Academy and LIPA. Congratulations to Year 11 and their hard work and good luck for your final graded exam components after half term!

Performing Arts



Music

Year 7

During this half-term Year 7 have begun to explore how the rhythm work from last term fuses with pitch to create a melody. The wisdom that students have shown regarding rhythm has meant that they have adapted to reading the musical stave incredibly well. They are enjoying working on the keyboards, with many showing a natural affinity for Music. Mr Payne and Mr Fenney are incredibly pleased with not only their musical progress this half term but also their endurance with such challenging content. Students who wish to practise further should join us on Monday Lunchtimes in Music 1 for full access to all of the instruments and to receive additional support.

Year 8

Year 8 have started to study the Blues, focusing on an answer to the question: Is it acceptable to study music which has a dark history? They have responded maturely to this topic and have become confident in playing the 12 Bar Blues chord progression. We have been really impressed with the knowledge shown by Year 8 in exploring the Blues Scale, which uses parts of the keyboard we haven't yet used! It is important that they show endurance as we move towards exploring our Blues assessment piece which is based around three, challenging riffs.

Year 9

Over the last half-term Year 9 pupils have been studying Songwriting.

Year 9 have really developed their skills in the different areas of songwriting such as, writing lyrics, creating a melody or riff and composing their own chord progression. It has been so lovely to see year 9 composing their own Music and creating their own sound through this unit providing students with the opportunity to compose music on a range of instruments such as keyboards, guitar, ukulele and vocals. Year 9 are due to take their options soon and its so exciting to discuss with pupils the possibility of them taking music into year 10. Year 9 have shown a real interest in music beyond year 9 and the Music department is so excited to see the next wave of musicians coming into key stage 4.

Performing Arts

Music

Year 10

This half-term Year 10 have continued to make excellent progress on their BTEC course. Year 10 are currently preparing for their first coursework submission looking into different genres of Music studied in lessons and practically exploring these on their chosen instruments. Year 10 have shown real endurance and resilience during our Music lessons asking important questions to clarify their knowledge and exploring aspects of Music in a challenging way. Year 10 continually impress the Music department with their contributions both inside and outside of lessons contributing to the performing arts community in a very positive way.



Year 11

Year 11 have completed their penultimate piece of coursework in Music before moving onto their final exam. Year 11 has been excellent with recapping musical genres and analysing Music across a wide range of genres. Year 11 students are working hard towards their final exam by researching all aspects of their chosen genre and learning how to play the song they have chosen. Year 11 have developed their skills instrumentally very well developing their playing ability and really challenging themselves within their chosen discipline and instrument. The Music department is excited to see and hear the final results of their exam transforming a song into a different genre.

Performing Arts

Dance

Dance LIPA Festival

Sixteen dancers took part in the LIPA feast festival at the Paul McCartney auditorium. All pupils worked hard on creating and learning a contemporary piece which they performed in front of other secondary schools across Merseyside. Their final performance was outstanding with pupils demonstrating excellent performance skills and endurance throughout. Well done dancers. Miss McNamara was thrilled with the contribution of the performers! Well done!



Performing Arts

Extra Curricular

Music

The Music department has revamped its extra curricular clubs after Christmas and introduced new clubs for all students during and after school.

Korus - Formerly known as choir Korus is our new vocal group for all students within the school who want to sing in a vocal group and improve their vocal ability both individually and as part of an ensemble. Korus is on after school on a Thursday in Music 3 and anyone is welcome to join at any time. There is no need to audition or sign up, just turn up to Music 3 after school and join in with Korus to sing a wide variety of different songs across different genres of music.

Music Club - Music club continues to run Monday lunchtimes for all year groups within the school. Music club offers pupils the opportunity to practise and learn a new instrument of their choice that they are wanting to improve on. Music club is a brilliant opportunity for students of all ages to improve their instrument skills and make new friends and share interests within music with people in and out of the same year group as them.

Band - We held auditions for our first Year 7 band this half term and are pleased to announce that the band is fully formed and working hard after school on Thursday's choosing songs they want to play with the guidance from the music department to assist with this. The band consists of Matteo Perez Cuestas (Drums) Harry Cotgrave (Vocals) Vincent Doran (Guitar) and Jacob Loftus (Bass). The Music department is extremely excited about how the band is going to progress and perform in future events and concerts in the future. The band have currently rehearsed and practised "Seven Nation Army" & "Under Pressure".

Performing Arts

Extra Curricular

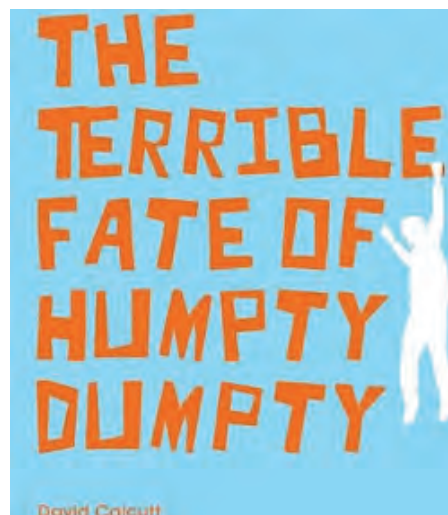
Drama Club

This year, we have started to run a KS3 Drama club involving Year 7 and Year 8 pupils on a Wednesday after school. Year Ten pupils have also been helping to plan and facilitate the workshops for the younger pupils.

In Drama Club, pupils have been working on getting to know each other and meeting people in other year groups. Pupils have enjoyed the opportunity to make friends across forms and year groups who all share a love for Drama and performance.

We have been working on improvisation and characterisation and pupils have enjoyed developing their confidence and collaboration skills. Pupils have developed their creativity and have demonstrated a true passion for creating dynamic characters and scenes with new friends.

We have now moved on to start exploring some scripted work, looking at the play 'The Terrible Fate of Humpty Dumpty' and other contemporary performance texts. Pupils have been a joy to work with this term and we look forward to continuing this next half term!



Science

Year 7

This half term, students have been learning about acids and alkalis. Pupils have been testing solutions to find out their pH using different indicators and investigating everyday uses of neutralisation.



Science Club

Our Y7-9 scientists have been having a 'blast' at Science club this half term. They have carried out a variety of experiments including the engineering and launch of their very own bottle rockets!! If you would like to join us, please come along Monday's, Sc9, 3:20-4:20pm.



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.



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



Year 9 pupils have been looking at balanced and unbalanced forces during their physics topic this year. They have linked their understanding of this to Hooke's Law where they have investigated the extension of a spring.

Educake



The effort of all students continues to impress the science staff. We held our first ever Educake Reward Party at the end of the last term and students really enjoyed receiving goodies, cake and certificates.

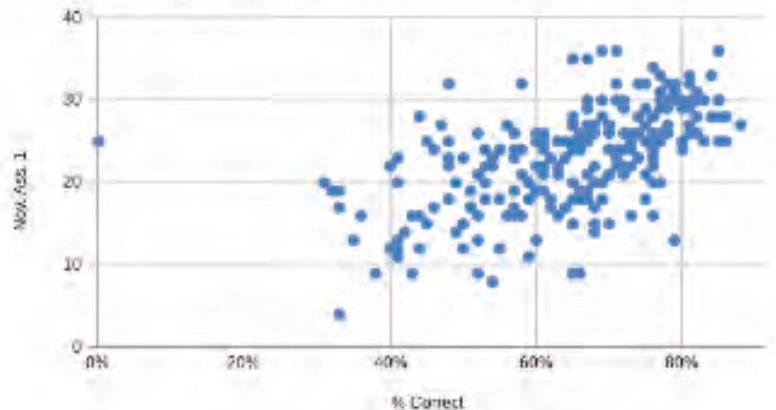
Here are some photos of our term 1 winners - well done!



Science

This graph shows the relationship between Educake marks and scores in a test. It is clear that those having the most success with Educake, are also performing better in assessments.

Nov. Ass. 1 vs % Correct



Easter Educake Tea Party

Mrs Taylor will be **chick-ing** out your scores for the spring term and inviting students to a tea party full of Easter treats!!



All you have to do is be in the top 5 for your year group by the end of term! Good luck!

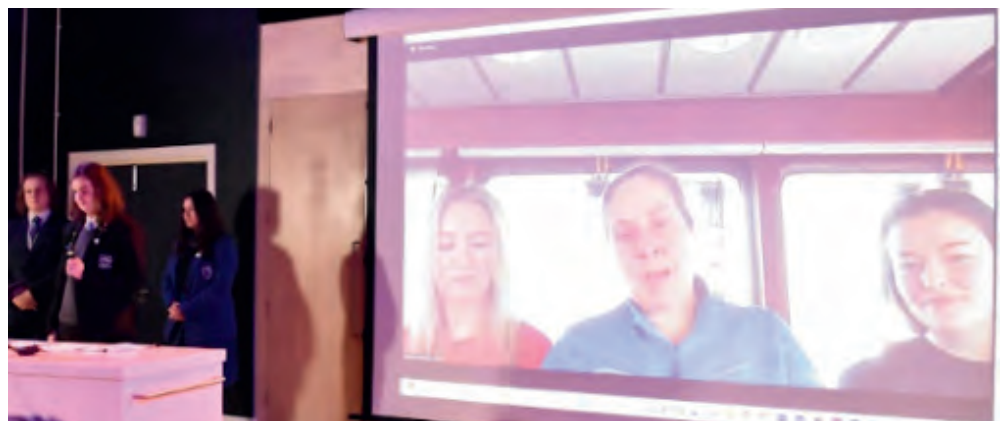
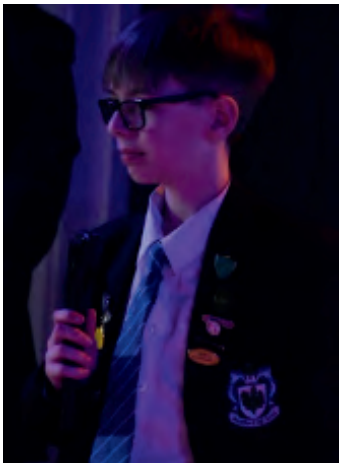
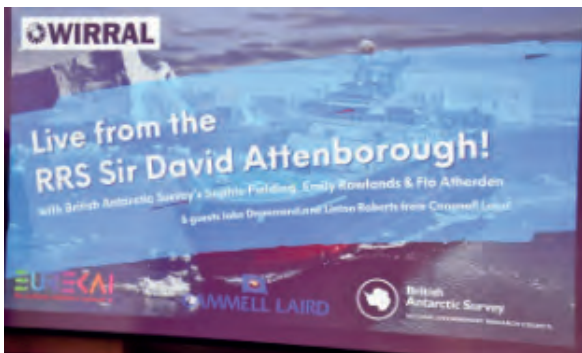


With the success of the first party - we are planning another one just before Easter. This will take into account all scores from 1st January - you have to be in it - to win it! Good luck!

Science

British Antarctic Survey Trip to Eureka

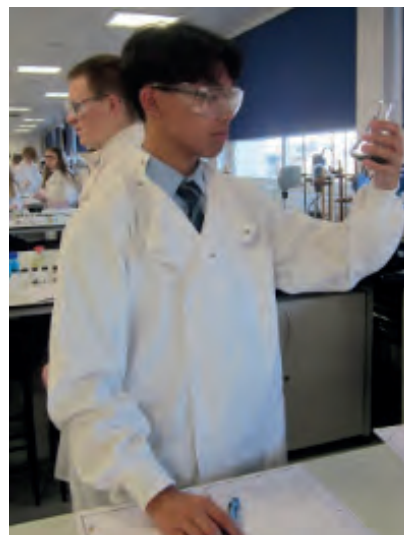
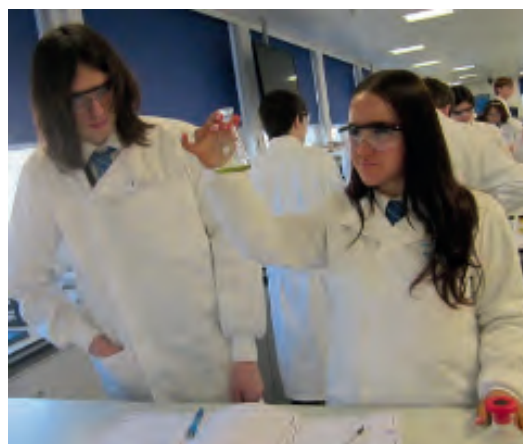
A group of lucky students across years 7-10 were lucky enough to be invited to take part in a remote video call with the team from the British Antarctic Survey. Our students were brave enough to ask questions about the experiments that they are doing and their recent findings. Students also heard from the engineer that designed and built the Sir David Attenborough research vessel which students found fascinating. Afterwards, students explored the Eureka science discovery centre and learnt about renewable energy, how science is used in medicine and the pharmaceutical industry.



Science

Year 11 Absolute Chemistry Trip to LJMU

In December, a group of year 11 students returned to Liverpool John Moore's University for the final session of a 3 year chemistry project. They had the fantastic opportunity to carry out experiments in the university laboratories and had lectures to help prepare them for their GCSE exams in the summer. Well done to all those involved - the lecturer told us that we were the best school there!



Canteen

After February half term we have some exciting new additions to our lunch menus including:

Lasagne
Chicken Korma
Hot Dogs
Vegetable Chow Mein
Mediterranean Chicken Wrap

Weekly Menu 1 Woodchurch High School				
Monday Southern Fried Chicken Burger Coated chicken fillet in a breaded bun. Served with cubed potatoes and salad. Or Mac N Cheese Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce topped with grated cheese.	Tuesday Tandoori Curry Spiced Tandoori chicken in a rich creamy tomato butter sauce. Served with yellow rice. Or Vegan Sausage Roll Meat free sausage roll, topped in puff pastry, served with new potatoes and beans.	Wednesday Beef Bolognese Minced beef combined with herbs, tomato and vegetables. Served with fresh cooked pasta, garlic bread and grated cheese. Or Margherita Calzone Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	Thursday Chicken in a Box Coated southern fried chicken strips and popcorn chicken. Served with wedges, beans or corn on the cob. Or Cheese & Onion Pie Grated cheese and sliced onions, topped in shortcrust pastry served with wedges and beans.	Friday Fish and Chips Cod fillets coated in batter. Served with chips, creamy peas or beans. Or Sausage and Chips Or Quorn Quashedilla Minced quorn, sliced vegetables, mozzarella 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		

Weekly Menu 2 Woodchurch High School				
Monday Sak N Pepper Chicken Popcorn chicken coated in a soft and pepper rub, served with creamy chili, mozzarella. Or Mac N Cheese Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce topped with grated cheese.	Tuesday Chili Con Carne Minced beef combined with spices, tomatoes and vegetables. Served with rice, topped with tortilla chips and grated cheese. Or Quorn Quashedilla Minced quorn, sliced vegetables, mozzarella beans and spices. Served in a wrap topped with cheese.	Wednesday Roast Chicken Dinner Chicken breast served with seasonal vegetables, roast potatoes, gravy and stuffing. Or Cheese & Onion Pie Grated cheese and sliced onion, topped in shortcrust pastry. Served with seasonal vegetables and meat potatoes.	Thursday Mediterranean Chicken Wraps Sweet, sticky maple and oregano chili chicken, served in a tortilla wrap, with potato wedges and fresh salad. Or Margherita Calzone Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	Friday Fish and Chips Cod fillets coated in batter served with chips, creamy peas or beans. Or Sausage and Chips Or Vegan Sausage Roll Meat free sausage roll, topped 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		

Weekly Menu 3 Woodchurch High School				
Monday Sausage and Hash Oven cooked sausage, finished with gravy. Served with mash potato and seasonal vegetables. Or Vegan Sausage Roll Meat free sausage roll, topped in puff pastry, served with chips and beans.	Tuesday Chicken Burrito Chicken combined with spices and vegetables in a tortilla wrap. Topped in the cheese. Served with wedges and salad. Or Margherita Calzone Folded pizza filled with Italian tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese.	Wednesday Spiced & Sour Chicken Coated popcorn chicken in a sweet and sour sauce with sliced vegetables. Served with boiled rice. Or Mac N Cheese Macaroni pasta in a homemade cheese sauce topped with grated cheese.	Thursday Soups Slow cooked beef, combined with potatoes, onions, carrots and peas. Served with creamy bread. Or Cheese & Onion Pie Grated cheese and sliced onion, topped in shortcrust pastry. Served with new potatoes and beans.	Friday Fish and Chips Cod fillets coated in batter. Served with chips, creamy peas or beans. Or Sausage and Chips Or Quorn Quashedilla Minced quorn, sliced vegetables, mozzarella beans and spices. Served in a wrap topped with cheese.
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Careers and Guidance

Year 11

It has been a busy time for Careers with applications and interviews under way for Y11. Many of our Y11 pupils have had interviews with a range of Post 16 providers Well done to all of those pupils who have been offered places! For those pupils who have not yet made an application to an apprenticeship provider, further education college or school sixth form provider, it is vital that applications are made to secure a place of their choice, as soon as possible. School staff are available to help with any applications that children wish to make.

There have been a variety of providers who have visited school over the past few weeks. There have been lunchtime drop in sessions from Wirral Met, Cheshire College and Reaseheath College. The latter have also presented in assembly to Y11 pupils. There has also been a focused group talk around applications to the Armed Forces.

National Apprenticeship week was this month and local employers have held apprenticeship open evenings. Pupils were made aware of the various opportunities on offer and how to book a place, in order to be involved in the scheme.

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 the Careers 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 and Guidance

Looking Ahead:

Wirral Met and Cheshire College will continue with their lunchtime drop in sessions.

6th March - Coleg Cambria Open Evening - 5pm to 7pm

13th March - Wirral Met Open Evening - 4.30pm to 7pm

20th March - Cheshire College Open Evening 5.30pm to 7pm

Year 10

Work Experience

At the time of writing Y10 had not started their work experience but they have had a busy few weeks preparing for their work experience and making sure everything is ready. They had their work experience drop down day when we were able to go through what was involved in their work experience week. They have been sorting out their placements, making sure they have made their telephone calls, organised how they are getting there and ordering any safety equipment that they have needed.

More details of how their week went to follow in the next newsletter

Thank you to our Y8 Career Champions Charlie and Nathan for helping with Work Experience Drop Down Day.

Year 9

Y9 Pupils had their options day this month and local Post 16 providers including Wirral Met, Cheshire College and Coleg Cambria were available throughout the day to talk to parents/carers and pupils about the pathway that option choices could take them.

Careers and Guidance



Kudos

We continue to 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.

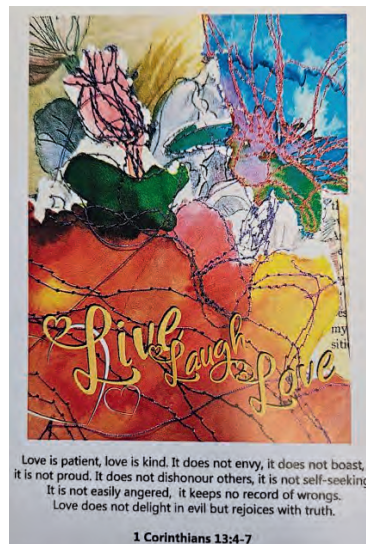
Careers Library

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.

Charity

Cards of Hope

Some of our Year 8 pupils shared some love and kindness with the local community on Valentines Day, as part of their Archbishop of York Award by giving out cards of hope. It was a lovely afternoon and the pupils received so many comments of gratitude from people who really valued receiving them. One lady commented that after the passing of her husband, she didn't think she'd get a card this year but she was delighted to have received one.



Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this half term we have been thinking about the film *Amazing Grace*, which tells the story of William Wilberforce and others, who campaigned for many years for the slave trade to be abolished in Britain. Over the last few weeks we have considered the ambition and the courage of the men and women who campaigned and lobbied for the abolition of slavery. We thought about the importance of encouraging our friends to make right decisions, and to push us to push ourselves. We learned that for most issues sympathy and pity won't make a difference, that things change when we take action; we learned from the Bible that our beliefs have to be represented by our actions, "What good is it if someone claims to have faith but does nothing about it? Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead." And we thought about the realities of injustice around slavery in the late 1700s, during which time Britain still dominated the transportation of slaves overseas despite slavery becoming illegal in England in 1772. William Wilberforce spoke out reminded people of the time that God made men equal; and whether we have much or little in common with those who are suffering in slavery, they are as valuable, precious and important as each of us.

In the final week of our series we learned about slavery today. Despite the abolition of slavery in 1807, there are more than 40 million slaves scattered all over the world today, including more than 10,000 people trapped in slavery in the UK. Today, the Slave Trade isn't as blatant as it was in Wilberforce's time; there are lots of different terms used to describe it, including "human trafficking". Traffickers manipulate, lie and deceive young men and women into paying for what they believe to be a new opportunity to study or get a job, but then steal them from their homes and families and force them to work against their will, doing awful jobs under terrible conditions. This is not the way people are meant to live – this is not the justice that Wilberforce and others were striving for. This is not how God intended for mankind to live. It's easy for us to be ignorant to the injustice and evil in the world because it can be far from home, or because we are desensitised by receiving too much information; but God wants us to be there for, and stand alongside, people who are broken-hearted, and to strive towards release for people who don't have their own freedom.

Collective Worship

One of the charities that we are supporting this year is International Justice Mission (IJM), a global organisation that protects people in poverty from violence by rescuing victims, bringing criminals to justice, restoring survivors to safety and strength, and helping local law enforcement build a safe future that lasts. Children, women and men face the reality of modern slavery, exploitation and abuse every day because people in power prey on the vulnerabilities that poverty creates. IJM is on a mission to partner with local communities to build a more just world where everyone can expect to be safe and protected. They believe that hope in action is the most powerful force in the world, and with it, justice is unstoppable.

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 3rd March we're using Cars. During Lent, we are using the Narnia stories by CS Lewis as a theme for our services, with a film night on Saturday 23rd March when we'll watch The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe, and special services on Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Please check our website for more information about our groups and services www.stm-upton.org.uk All are welcome to join us – there's something for everyone!

St Mary's Church Upton

Making a difference, wherever we are, as we share Faith For Life in Christ





CTL Ambassadors



Ms Griffiths and Mrs Keegan are delighted to have appointed our new Commitment to Learning (CTL) ambassadors in Years 7 and 9. These are the pupils in each year group who have the highest CTL grade in every subject, which means they consistently engage in lessons, complete homework, study independently and are on track to either achieve or exceed their target grade. This is an outstanding achievement.

Our CTL ambassadors in Years 8 and 10 remain the same team that served the school so excellently last year and we look forward to developing their role further this academic year.

Our CTL ambassadors will continue to support in homework clubs, offer revision and independent study support to their peers, as well as supporting our next year 7 cohort of pupils during their transition to WHS and delivering sessions to pupils and parents focussing on effective independent study and using our WHS Big 4 strategies.

Our team of CTL ambassadors are:

Year 7

Jaydanna Bjerkan, Poppy Banks, Jessica Davies, Lyra Dobson, Libby Godfrey, Christopher Greenwood, Harriet McCarthy-Gordon, River Stewart-McBeth, Temperance Thompson, Leah Wynne

Year 8

Laceymay Unwin, Oscar Hall, Skye Fitzpatrick, Pak Yan Ho and Cordelia Gleeson

Year 9

Noah Bennett, Alysha Gallagher, Kayin Lam, Mitchell Gore, Melissa Ryan, Lelia Dennett

Year 10

Ian Leung, Olivia Fishwick, Alice Grievson, Grace Piercy, Joe Roberts and Niamh Nixon

Online Safety

On 15th February, two police officers came in to deliver some sessions to our pupils.

They completed work on how to stay safe online and the role of the police in our community.

The officers fed back that the pupils were a credit to the school and that there were some potential young officers in the making present!



SEND

We have had 3 very successful football tournaments at Greenbank Sports Academy in Liverpool over this spring half term.

Our first tournament was a SLD/PD football tournament and the pupils finished in a very strong second place, losing 2-1 in the final against a very good opposition team.



The following week we had our girls football tournament which once again resulted in a podium position, the girls worked super hard and ended up winning their bronze medal match on penalties after a hard fought 1-1 draw.

Our third and final football tournament of the half term was the KS3 boys football tournament. We took 2 teams to this tournament, one of our teams went the whole day unbeaten and only conceded 1 goal throughout the tournament and they ended up winning the gold medal. The other team put in a great show of endurance and finished up with a 4th place finish.



All in all it was a great show of service and endurance from everyone involved, they should all be very proud of themselves!

Ski Trip

During January 2024, forty pupils and five members of staff travelled across Europe to embark on the annual ski trip. The long journey across Europe was smooth and made more comfortable and entertaining due to the accommodating service of HJ coaches and their drivers.

A meandering bus journey took us to the very picturesque Italian province of Folgaria. The bright sunshine (a feature for the whole week) and fresh mountain air was exhilarating, as pupils and staff began to feel the buzz of being around the snow and experiencing the local culture of Northern Italy.

After a hearty breakfast and a quick 'ciao, ciao' to our hosts, the party travelled by bus to the ski resort. A short night's sleep in our Hotel, (The Hotel Skilift, in the heart of Mondole) some continental breakfast and we were off to be fitted up and kitted out for the week, with skis, helmets, poles and boots. Our ski rep for the week was Katie from Scotland.



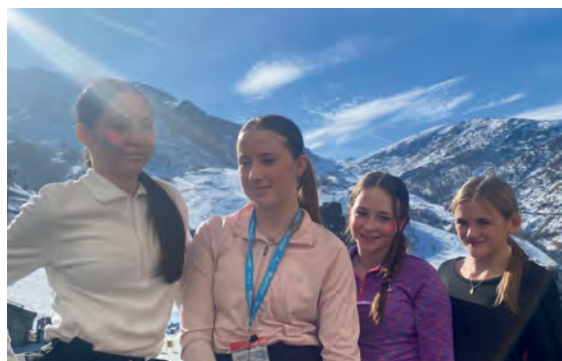
Ski Trip

The peaks were covered with over a metre of snow and the valley had a good half metre of snow cover, ensuring perfect skiing conditions. We donned our equipment and headed out to meet our Ski Reps for the week. It was a beautiful, crisp, sunny morning (every morning) as in small groups of varying experience, we made our way to different starting points in the resort. Chair lifts took us to the higher slopes, as confidence increased and over the week great progress was made by all participants, with all pupils making it up on the chair lifts to the top of the mountain. All 40 pupils had an amazing experience on the slopes and at all times they were fantastic ambassadors for Woodchurch High School.

Back at base, the views from the hotel were exhilarating, overlooking the Pinerolo valley, with snow filled peaks, acting as an amazing backdrop.

The hotel staff were lovely and meal times were always a great opportunity for everyone to catch up on the day's events. Early nights and early mornings ensured we were always prepared for what the mountains had to offer. The exception being the traditional pizza night!

Before we knew it we were being whisked off by coach to start our journey home. During the overnight drive through Europe, pupils were able to reflect on those instant memories, as thoughts started to shift to the excitement of seeing their friends and family, to share what was a memorable experience for all. We hope this trip has ignited a passion for skiing in our pupils and built up their aspiration to ski again and enjoy the delights of Europe in the future, after this brief taste of life on the piste!



STEM

University of Liverpool's Year 9 STEM Day.

15 of our year 9 students attended the University of Liverpool's STEM Day. It was a day of hands-on practical activities for Year 9 able & enthusiastic students in the Universities superb Central Teaching Labs.

Activities on the day included:

- Talk in a lecture theatre about University and STEM subjects.
- Artificial Intelligence session in one of their many ICT facilities.
- Hands on problem solving maths session requiring communication and teamwork.
- Maths Team Relay Quiz involving reasoning and analysing.
- Careers and University session.



The students really enjoyed the day and they were a great representation of our school community, culture and high expectations.

Students learnt and thrived together, showing endurance and allowing their minds to open up to new challenges. It was a fantastic opportunity and students were able to see that they can aim high with their future goals after seeing the wide range of STEM degrees on offer so close by.



Diary Dates

Spring Half Term 2

Friday 17th February 2024

School closes

Monday 19th - Friday 23rd
February 2024

Half Term Break

Monday 26th February 2024

School Open - pupils return

Tuesday 27th March 2024
Thursday 29th March 2024

10X Parent's Evening
10Y Parent's Evening

Monday 4th - Monday 11th March
2024

Year 11 Exams

Tuesday 12th - Thursday 14th
March 2024

School Production - Evening
Performances

Tuesday 19th March 2024
Thursday 21st March 2024

11X Parent's Evening
11Y Parent's Evening

Wednesday 27th March 2024

Easter Assemblies

Thursday 28th March 2024

School Closes

Friday 29th March - Friday 12th
April 2024

Spring Break

Monday 15th April 2024

School Open - pupils return