

# WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH NEWSLETTER



Issue No 13 December 2014

## Headlines

It's a matter of opinion, of course, but I think if I were asked what had been the most remarkable item of news to hit the headlines this term my vote would go to the feat of landing a space module on the surface of a comet. So startled was I on first learning of this achievement that I came within a whisker of asking incredulously 'a *moving* comet?', realising only just in time that there is no other kind. Comets do not pause obligingly in mid sky to allow space modules to climb aboard.

It was a cliché of the old style cowboy movies my father and brothers used to love that they frequently featured a scene in which the hero swung alongside the runaway stage coach and in full career leapt astride one of more of the team of horses to bring the vehicle to a halt. As the cinema evolved and audiences developed a need for ever more excitement similar episodes began to appear in which the vehicle out of control was a train or a juggernaut and in due course even an aircraft. No matter. The intrepid transfer continued to take place with decisive effect. Eventually with the arrival of the new millennium exploits as tame as these were ceasing to thrill and the movie makers upped the ante envisaging landings on meteorites and such like. What could be more preposterous? Except that now it has actually happened.

It's a well-known feature of the story of Christ's nativity that he is visited in his stable by three wise men who are guided all the way from their Asian Kingdoms by a new and remarkable star. Scholars, sifting the mythology for a plausible basis in fact, have often suggested that this was in reality a comet, and indeed that seems the likeliest explanation – so it's alleged immobilisation in the sky over Bethlehem would have to be put down to poetic license. Comets, as we already noted, are always on the move.



The wise men's guiding star has always been one of the most enchanting aspects of the Christmas story. And it's interesting that the magic remains undamaged by speculation about the 'real', 'scientific' nature of the phenomenon. It turns out that there is always room for the poetic and the practical to co-exist side by side. And that last observation brings me to a matter much nearer home which I wanted to touch upon in this newsletter

As you are aware, Redbridge is currently consulting on its proposal to expand its two grammar schools. We are very positive about the opportunity this presents to design accommodation for the twenty first century curriculum. (If you've yet to support these proposals, please access the on-line consultation [here](#) – it closes on the last day of term.) In exploring the best of modern provision for laboratories and computer suites, however, we are mindful of a duty of stewardship of the School's ethos and environment, as well as of its grade 11 listed building. It's an interesting challenge for us as well as for our architects and my assemblies this week invited students to consider how we balance a duty as custodians of history with a responsibility to maintain and develop facilities suitable for their current purpose – the girls' own education. We're confident, of course, that with experts on our team and the collaboration of some highly creative minds the old and the new, the traditional and the innovative, the poetic and the practical, will continue to co-exist on our physical site as they do in the everyday life of the school. Woodford approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (September 2019), we'd like to think, with much the same confidence, optimism and clarity of moral purpose which saw it ready, in the wake of the First World War, for its first.

Expansion, development and that very significant birthday all lie in the future. In the shorter term, however, we look forward to a well-earned break. I hope that this festive season will be a happy and peaceful one for you and your family and that the New Year will bring health, fellowship and a sense of well-being.

**Ms Jo Pomeroy – Headteacher**



<b>Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
Headlines	1
Music Tour to Belgium – July 2014	3
School Birthday	4
Turner Prize lunch party	4
Library News	4
Woodford e-Safety Focus	5
Road safety Calendar competition and presentation evening 2014	6
Let's Think in English – With Kings College	6
FivePenny Race	6
Year 11 Visit to Thriftwood...A Birthday Treat!	7
Senior Team Maths Challenge 2014	7
The British Museum Germany: Memories of a National Exhibition	7
Stem in a Day Girls into ICT Organised by Accenture	8
BIMA D-DAY – Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2014	9
Testing Times (11+) and World's Biggest Coffee Morning	9
Celebrating Woodford's Past & Open House 2014	10
Does religion unite people more than it divides them? Religious Studies Conference & Watch this (Spiritual) Space	11
UK German Youth Ambassador	11
House Drama 2014	12
The Christmas Concert 2014	12
Woodford and Ilford choirs impress at the London International Arts Festival	13
Renowned tabla player Kuljit Bhamra visits Woodford	13
Jack Petchey Awards 2014	13
Christmas card competition 2014	14
Classics Visit to Rome	15
Art Visit to Seven Sisters	16
Celebrating Languages at Woodford	16
The Mark Evison Foundation – Personal Challenge	17
Prize Giving 2014 and Movember	18
Behind the shock machine	19
Careers Fair	19
Gold Club Accolade – London Schools Gold Club 2014	19
After School Club	20
Woodford County High's Digital Schoolhouse	21
Olympic athlete visits Woodford County High School	22
Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships - Redbridge round	22
Sports Profiles on Natasha Patel, Shaleen Sayani, Shree Patel, Year 13 - Dance	23
Inter-form Netball 2014	23&24
England netball team take on Malawi at the Copper Box .	25
Cross Country 2014	26
2014 Woodford Christmas Card	27

## Music Tour to Belgium – July 2014

After a year's worth of preparation, months of anticipation and a week of last minute rehearsals, the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July had arrived. The weather was unusually warm that day, promise of the great weather to come. After bidding Woodford farewell for another year, and meeting our tour manager, Abby, we began the laborious task of loading the coach, with an endless chain of suitcases and instruments of all shapes and sizes.

Our first full day began with an unusually tuneful rendition of happy birthday (harmonies included). And what better way to follow breakfast than visiting a chocolate factory in Bruges? We gladly welcomed the heavenly smell, learning about chocolate making, sampling the wares and remaining studiously oblivious to the 'no photography' sign. The group then enjoyed a relaxing canal cruise, looking for the celebrated 'doggy in the window' and noting at the contrast between our London scenery and the Belgian houses along the canal.

Our first concert took place at Wapenplein Bandstand, Ostend. It was much like our summer showcase: folders were handed out, and no matter how many wooden pegs we used, one stray sheet of music went flying! We enjoyed our up market busking and we hope the passers by did too. But, Ostend seemed to be pleased, and we were rewarded with free drinks at the bandstand.

Our evening activity was bowling. While most of us finished quite quickly, others chose to take their time. Miss Hasler and Mrs Thompson, though being amongst the lowest scorers, definitely won, with their creative, music themed bowling run ups - a rather difficult concept to explain.

The next morning, we left early for the Bellewaerde Theme Park. We were all set on a fun few hours of screaming our hearts out and getting soaked on the biggest rides possible, while still finding time to try the smaller rides; the orchestra tried very hard to sing their parts to *Pirates of the Caribbean* on the pirate ship ride. A definite favourite was the water slide, as we watched our sixth formers race to the bottom against Miss Hasler and Miss Irwin. The sixth formers lost.

Then the group were off again, to perform in the 'Gent Fest, 'a prestigious music festival for which we had auditioned earlier in the year. This was very different to what many of us were used to, as we had the opportunity to perform on a professional stage with sound checks in front of a venue that sat a thousand. Many seemed to like our performance, especially those who'd been celebrating perhaps a little early in the day.

The next day was sadly the last of our Music Tour. While some were packed by 7:00 in the morning, others took their time to tidy their rooms. But, we left in time to make our last visit, the Memorial Museum in Passendale. This visit made a huge impression on us, particularly in the year marking the centenary of the start of WWI. We walked through damp and dingy trenches, donned heavy military uniforms and watched jittery black and white footage of life on the front line.

But, there's no place like home, and what better way to return to England than in the pouring rain? After Miss Hasler, Miss Irwin and Miss Harrigan bravely walked out into the road with flip flops and umbrellas, to stop the oncoming traffic so the coach could park in the driveway, we began our endless chain of luggage again, desperate to be home and dry.

The first Music Tour was an absolute success: it was a trip of new friendships, new musical experiences, and, most importantly, plenty of late night card games. We all had a lot of fun, but there were a lot of important things we learnt. Going on tour has taught us to work better as a team and given us valuable experience in dealing with nerves and more professional performances. We were also able to experience a different culture and learn more about the world's history. And of course, we have learnt so much musically and have grown as an ensemble. The music tour helped our musicianship and friendships in a way that practising in a classroom can't. For that we are so grateful for the music department, both teachers and students, and we hope that there'll be more exciting music tours to come.

**Zaynab Ahmed, 10H and Ashley Singh, 10N**



**Pictures: Year 9 Totem Poles**

## School Birthday

You may have noticed at the front of the school, amongst the autumn foliage, a beautiful installation of ceramic totems. They were realised by all year 9 to celebrate the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Woodford County High School. Natural forms from the school grounds were inlaid in the terracotta clay to decorate the surface. The scraffito technique was also used to draw and celebrate the school features. Well done to all year 9 pupils and many thanks to their teachers for their support.

**Mrs Jerome – Head of Art**

## Turner Prize lunch party

You may have noticed that the 19<sup>th</sup> century painter J.M.W Turner has been on the news recently, with the release of Mike Leigh's film "Mr. Turner" as well as an exhibition devoted to Turner's late work at Tate Britain. Our Sixth formers art students wanted to celebrate Turner by inviting staff and pupils to come and vote for this year Turner prize candidates, prior the announcement of the winner on Channel 4!

Duncan Campbell was bookies favourite to win, 4 % of the voters at Woodford County felt he should win! Duncan Campbell questions and challenges the documentary form by mixing archive footage and new material.



## A Woodford Artist Exhibits



Miss D was chosen to exhibit her work at Brighton Craft and Design fair. The fair, which lasts four days, allows well-known makers from specialist fields in ceramics, glass, textiles and jewellery to showcase and sell their work directly to the public. Miss D was filmed by the local news team at the fair and talked

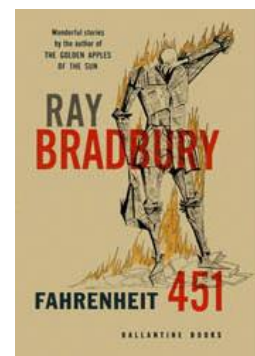
about her work and inspiration behind her pieces. The show was a success and Miss D went home with many ideas and techniques to share with the Woodford art students.

**Mrs Jerome – Head of Art**

## LIBRARY NEWS ++ LIBRARY NEWS++ LIBRARY NEWS

### They are revolting students!

Rumour has it amongst the School Council and the student population in general that a revolution is coming next term. In the New Year, all students are invited to earn vast amounts of house points by simply reading the library books and judging them, either to: - buy, borrow, bin or burn. Obviously the library is not advocating the burning of books and this campaign has been inspired by the 1953 dystopian novel Fahrenheit 451 where the reading of books is outlawed in an effort to suppress ideas. Contrary to this idea and as an added incentive to the enterprise, many of the fiction titles that the students have been requesting throughout the term have been purchased and are now being prepared for the shelves. It is hoped that all students will be encouraged to participate in this liberating reading movement. Other upcoming events will include the Redbridge Book Awards, short story and poetry competitions, author visits and creative writing workshops.



Other news in an otherwise busy term, regards the ongoing refurbishment of the Senior Library and corridor. Already a crisp coat of paint has been applied to the walls and new window seats installed. (Fitted cushions are currently being handmade by Suzanne Bradnum, a WCHS maths teacher.) In addition to the plants, new furniture and the imminent delivery of the long awaited furniture for the corridor, the Art Department has also been invited to display student art pieces. It is envisaged that these improvements and displays will ensure that both Libraries remain a warm, welcoming, yet academic environment in which to study.

**Ms D Horn, School Librarian**



## WOODFORD e-SAFETY FOCUS



This term our focus was to raise the awareness of e-safety throughout the

school community, and what better way to start than with our New Year 7 girls and their parents.

At the beginning of the Summer term students in year 7 and their parents completed our online e-safety surveys. Students completed theirs during computing lessons and parents via our *Fronter* Parent Room. The information we collected enabled computing staff to target their teaching and allowed us to organise bespoke information sessions for parents.

During September we were delighted to welcome Christian Smith of *Strictly Education* to Woodford. He delivered a number of age appropriate e-safety talks to students, e-safety training for all staff and e-Safety advice to our Key Stage 3 parents.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> September Christian came in and spoke to all of our year 12 and Year 13 girls on the subject of social media, the importance of protecting privacy settings and their 'Digital tattoo'.

The girls were aware that smart use of social media can benefit their studies, help them find employment later in life, and enrich their personal and social lives, but that there are also inherent risks and dangers. Many were sure they had this 'locked down' to friends only but nevertheless it acted as a prompt. You could hear the buzz in the room as the penny dropped, 'I need to check this when I get home'!

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> September Christian spoke to all of our year 9 girls. They explored the hazards of disclosing personal data and the possible consequences of making comments and forging affiliations to groups on social networks. Cyber-bullying, cyber-grooming and the importance of always being respectful and courteous when online were discussed.

This was an interactive session and it was lovely to see all the girls participate by asking and answering questions.

On the evening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September we welcomed our New Year 7 parents to our first ever e-safety information evening.

Parents were provided with information and advice on how to keep their child safe, including the need to understand what their child is doing online (and what risks there are) to help them navigate a safe path through the virtual world. They each took home their own copy of the *Digital Parenting* magazine and were made aware of the large amount of resource material available to them on *Fronter*.

**Here is a reminder of the parent *Fronter* Login details:**

**User id: woodfordparent**

**Password: myfronter2014**

We welcomed Christian back on the 5<sup>th</sup> November. This time he spoke to all of our year 10 & 11 girls, provided e-safety training for staff and gave a second e-safety information session for parents (this time open to all parents of Years 7-8).

We will be continuing our work in this area, so keep reading our head teacher's weekly bulletins. New from January will be an e-safety bite sized section with useful information for you.

**Rita Del Giudice**  
Network Manager



## Road safety Calendar competition and presentation evening 2014



Students from Year 7 (academic year 2013-14) were entered for the annual Redbridge Road Safety Calendar competition. The judging panel met in September and selected the four best entries

from three separate classes that cater for the different age ranges. Over 800 entries were judged by the panel of Three judges, who comprised of a Traffic Officer from the Metropolitan Police Service, a Road Safety Officer from Newham and a Highways Engineer from Redbridge.

Two entries from Woodford County High school were selected to appear in the Redbridge Road Safety Calendar 2015. We would like to congratulate the two winners from Woodford County High School- *Sidrah Siddiqui 8W and Hue-Mai Tang 8R*.

The winners and their parents were invited to a special award ceremony earlier this month. The students received a book token and a framed picture of their winning art work to take home. A copy of the calendar was also given to the winners and the school.

A quote from Sidrah Siddiqui 8W and Hue-Mai Tang 8R about the Road Safety Presentation evening:

*'The presentation ceremony by Redbridge Road Safety officials was pleasant. The presentation of the framed entries to the winners were done one at a time. The officials were really organised and got through the presentation swiftly. They were clear about explaining how they chose the winners. It was quite fascinating and we liked the way they had set up the hall with all the snacks at the back, and a screen with some examples of the entries. Overall, we thought that the presentation was a success without boring anyone!'*

Let's Think in English is a project led by the Education Department at Kings College London. The model is based on a series of 30 lessons that are delivered bi-weekly to students in years 7 and 8. The lessons, which are based primarily on the discussion of poems, stories and other literature, are designed to further students' reading skills and their confidence in discussing their ideas in small groups and as a whole class.

Case studies on schools which have used the model have yielded very positive results. Let's Think in English has been found to improve students' written responses to literature as well as their written expression overall. There is also evidence that Let's Think in English can have a positive effect on students' performance in subjects across the curriculum. Year 7 and 8 students have already responded positively to their Let's Think in English lessons. Many have highlighted how the lessons encourage them to think more deeply about the literature they are discussing and how it has also built their confidence in expressing their ideas.

If you would like to find out more about the Let's Think in English model or would like to view their case studies, you can visit their website at <http://www.letsthinkinenglish.org/>.

## Fivepenny Race 2014



In October we held our annual Fivepenny Race in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. This year in 45 minutes at lunchtime, we raised £2,388!

Overtaking a 16 year winning streak by Repton, Highams won this year's race.

The fund-raising race was instigated in memory of Kim Holdstock, one of our students who died from Leukaemia in 1988. Do start saving those five penny pieces now for next year, and we'll see if we can raise even more money for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

**Mr. Becket**  
**Charity Co-ordinator**

## Year 11 Visit to Thriftwood...A Birthday Treat!

Whilst students at Woodford County were celebrating the school's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in the traditional Woodford style, Year 11 had the opportunity to visit Thriftwood Activity Centre. The aim of the visit was to develop our co-operation skills as well as adapt to different environments; be faced with challenging situations but attempt to overcome them with courage and perseverance.

Each form was split in two and were given three different activities. Each activity generally explored different skills. For example, my first activity was crate stacking. Amongst the screams of fear, the idea of cooperation came into practice as in twos, we were expected to climb up crates that were being stacked by another pair. My second activity, rock climbing, proved to have some difficulty especially when we all complained about not being tall enough to reach the next block. However two of the key skills needed in this activity were perseverance and communication skills. Shooting was our third challenge, and with this we needed to have a level of accuracy and concentration, something that replicates the skills we need in sports we practise regularly at school such as rounders – when batting especially.

We were each given scores throughout the day for each of the activities we completed. It was an insight into our competence in completing activities we had never tried before and therefore we needed to adapt to the situation we were placed in. On behalf of Year 11, I would like to say that this opportunity was very valuable and fun for us all and we definitely cherished the opportunity.

**By Sabah Mohammed 11W**



## Senior Team Maths Challenge 2014

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2014, Woodford County took part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge, held at Queen Mary University. The team consisted of two year 12s and two year 13s. Accompanied by Ms Rickard, we travelled to Mile End to compete against 37 other schools in a competition that put our mathematical and teamwork skills to the test.

The first stage of the competition was the 'Group Round'; teams were given ten questions and forty minutes to solve them. Our strategy was to divide into pairs to work through each problem methodically. Sounds easy enough... but we were rather shocked by the level of difficulty of the questions!

The 'Cross number Round' was next; our team split into pairs to complete what was essentially a crossword puzzle but with numbers instead. One pair was given the 'across' clues and the other pair the 'down' clues but there was a twist- we could only communicate with each other through a teacher to share answers.

The 'Shuttle Round' was next; still working in pairs, we were given four sets of four questions with 8 minutes to complete each set. One pair was given questions 1 and 3, the other pairs 2 and 4. The answer to each question was needed by the other pair to solve the next question so it was of the utmost importance that we worked as quickly and efficiently as possible.

At the end of what was definitely a challenging and exhausting experience, we were more than satisfied to hear that Woodford had come 6<sup>th</sup> out of the 38 participating schools. Having thoroughly enjoyed the day, we look forward to taking part in the Senior Team Maths Challenge again next year.

## The British Museum Germany: Memories of a National Exhibition

Sixth form pupils of German and of History visited the exhibition, Germany: Memories of a Nation at the British Museum. The exhibition gave us the opportunity to view 600 years of German history, from the Renaissance to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. As visitors, we saw the magnificent design in the artefacts displayed, which highlighted Germany's importance in art development. The most enjoyable part, for us, however was experiencing the death chime of the Strasbourg cathedral clock model, which is now a cultural influence from Germany and France. The visit to the museum definitely contributed to our learning beyond the classroom for both subjects.

The exhibition runs until 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and is highly recommended for students of History and German.



## STEM IN A DAY

### Girls Into ICT Organised by Accenture



A group of 10 students from year 8s, 9s and 10s were selected to take part in Stem in a Day which was organised by Accenture. The Stemetts project is set up to inspire the next generation of

females into Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) fields by showing them the amazing women already in STEM. Accenture is one of the many organisations that are also supporting the new Computing curriculum.

Accenture are a world-leading provider of management consulting, technology and subcontracting services. They have four main areas are Accenture Strategy, Accenture Digital, Accenture Technology and Accenture Operations. One of their latest projects is working very closely with Argos to transform everything digitally within the stores. Some examples of other amazing work they do is helping secure more than a quarter of the planet's internet traffic and 20 per cent of the world's telephone numbers are billed using their technology.

Woodford County High and Forest High school were privileged to be invited to one of their very successful and popular one day workshops at their office in Old Bailey.

The girls had the opportunity to explore the subject through spending the day with women at Accenture, building their own mobile app, entering a mini-competition and receiving an online tour of Accenture's high-tech 'Innovation Lab'. The students also heard from the women who are leading Accenture projects about their journeys into technology and found out more about what a career in Technology involves. The students worked collaboratively with other students from Forest to take advantage of the resources and challenges that were put before them on the day.

#### The Day in Detail

It was a fantastic day that the girls really enjoyed and were well motivated throughout the day. The day involved three staff from Accenture (Chanel, Natasha, Shajon) which volunteered to help out on the day and two members of Stemetts: Takita and Debbie. Takita and Debbie were in

charge of the workshops.

The day started with a warm up session and the aim was to get the girls from both schools mixed and talking with one another.

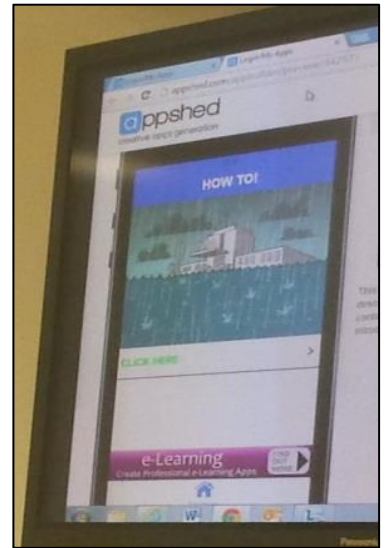
The workshop was to create an app for a scenario that was given by Takita. The scenario was that there have been flash floods in Woodford and students have to create an app that would be useful. The girls had to come up with ideas of what their app would include, what it would look like and what would be the main features. The students worked in pairs, one from each school. Each pair worked amazingly well with one another and there was great atmosphere in the room. The girls really bonded and had some amazing ideas.

Only a short step by step instruction was given by Takita how to use the app and the girls were on their way. The rest of the day involved pair work and the girls worked on their apps. They had a snack break with pastries - girls loved the free food and drinks!

After lunch, we had a conference tour (live) of the hub innovations of the Fenchurch street office - they showed some of Accenture's latest project, from apps to LED, light up skirts, which were displayed at the New York fashion week!

At the end the day, their apps were presented to the rest of the group and judged by the Accenture panel. Great feedback was given by the judges on presentation skills, features of the apps and further development. There were two. The girls also completed a feedback survey for Stemetts online just before leaving and they all received a goodie bag. Overall, it was a fantastic day; a great insight for the girls into technology. They were made aware of what careers are available and the girl has the opportunity to feel what it was like to be in a professional setting in an amazing building!

**Ms Siddiq – Teacher of Computing**







## BIMA D-DAY – Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014

A group of 50 budding and enthusiastic Year 9 girls participated in the British Interactive Media Association's (BIMA) Digital-day on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014. D-Day is one of the UK's biggest Digital events which involve students from schools nationwide displaying their digital initiative, and design skills whilst working in groups on 1 of 4 challenges to design their very own piece of technology.

The day was hosted by DigitasLbi, one of the largest marketing and technology organisations globally. Abi Ellis and Simon Attwater, Group Creative Directors led the girls in learning and using a whole host of skills in one day – from project management, researching, designing, group presenting, to debating and tailoring ideas to the needs of client requirements whilst keeping in mind the fast changing pace of technological demands – it was a day



full of ingenuity!

The girls were a credit to themselves. A note from Abi and Simon says it all...

*"Today we were privileged to meet 50 brilliant young*

*women, full of ideas, brimming with ambition and crackling with intelligence. I have no doubt they will reach the top of whichever profession they choose. I just hope that events like Digital Day convince them that having a career in digital is as desirable as being a doctor, barrister or engineer. If digital is to change the world for the better, we need these bright sparks, who excel in physics, chemistry and maths, as well as those who cherish the arts. If fact, these are renaissance girls: both musicians and mathematicians. Or perhaps linguists as well as physicists. To attract this talent we need to ensure that digital isn't perceived to be a bunch of bearded Nathan Barleys, playing ping pong. We need to be a collective of the finest minds breaking frontiers, not only for clients, but for the common good. Fingers crossed, today opened some minds."*

**Abi and Simon**

**Group Creative Directors, DigitasLbi**



competition winner....

**Ms N Chadee - Head of Computing Department**



## Testing Times

On Saturday 13 September 2014 Woodford hosted the 11+ tests on site. Some 800 potential applicants for September 2015 attended. The logistical challenge of managing this

many students and their parents (sometime with younger siblings in tow) were considerable but months of careful planning paid off and the event ran very smoothly. Feedback from parents on the day was very positive. Woodford staff were supported by a team of Sixth Form students who did a great job of keeping things moving and quieting the nerves of anxious ten year olds and their (still more anxious) parents. Good weather helped as did investment in clear signage and queue barriers and the provision of professional grade sound systems. A new testing system was in use this year for both Redbridge grammar schools. Our biggest concern for the day lay with factors outside our control like local traffic but parents heeded our warnings and arrived in good time, allowing the day to run to schedule.

**Ms Jo Pomeroy - Headteacher**



## World's Biggest Coffee Morning

A highlight in September is the staff Coffee Morning. The Office Ladies transform the staffroom into a café where delicious homemade cakes, teas and coffee are on offer for a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support. This event takes place during break-time and there is standing room only! This is the eighth year we have organised a Coffee Morning and we have raised a total of £1,977 by eating cake, drinking coffee and chatting! An enjoyable way of raising money for a very good cause.

**Mrs J Simister – Main Office**

## Celebrating Woodford's Past

COPY FROM BERNIE HART via Jones  
Entry 1936

ESSEX EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.  
TIME TABLE.  
Term ending Christmas 1939 Name: *Beryl Jones*  
Form: *Lower 5B*

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	French English Maths	Biology Gym	History Geography English	German English	Music English French
	Geography History	Maths German	French Maths	Scripture English	Maths German

HOME LESSONS.

History	Biology	French	Music	Art
French	"	Geography	English	English
Geography	English	Scripture	History	English
Maths	Maths	German	German	Maths

The Headmistress requests to be informed if any Pupil is absent longer than the time appointed and works after 9 o'clock

Form Mistress \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

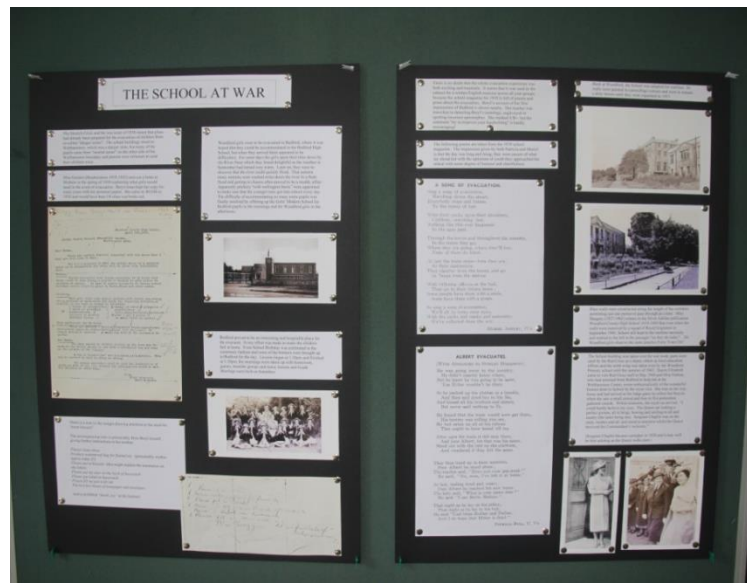
Woodford celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> birthday this year in the usual fashion and a whole school photograph was taken to mark the occasion. Our annual birthday activities are elaborate, by most school's standards, and this poses

something of a challenge as we begin to look forward to our centenary in 2019. One commitment in the intervening 5 years is to do what we can to compile, consolidate and catalogue the photos, documents and artefacts which chronicle our past. A conversation at the Old Girls' Association tea party got the project off the ground and I'm immensely grateful to Chris Symes and Rosemary Davis for the work they have done on the school archive. A fascinating display was put together for the School Birthday this year and also enjoyed by visitors to Open House 2014. As we plan for the building work that would come with expansion, digital access to former plans of our site (when the military hospital was converted to a school in 1919) and to photos throughout the decades, has been both fascinating and informative. We were also able to contribute photographs of the military use of the school to a World War 1 local history exhibition in a Redbridge museum.



## Open House 2014

Woodford invited the public to take a look around under the *Open House* scheme on Sunday 21 September 2014. Unsure how busy we'd be on this our second opening, the orderly queue which had formed 20 minutes prior to our opening time was reassuring and a sign of what was to come. Year 12 students acted as tour guides for a



steady stream of visitors throughout the afternoon: neighbours, old girls, former teachers, local historians and Open House enthusiasts. In many cases we learned as much from our guests as they did from us, and the girls found the afternoon fascinating. Archive photographs were displayed on the flat screen and plans dating from 1895 were a particular draw. The PFA served refreshments and chatted to visitors, one of whom was surprised to find she had a connection with the school, having been educated at the Bedford Girls' School to which Woodford girls were evacuated in the Second World War. Feedback to Open House from our 100 or so visitors was very positive:

*"Lovely place. Guides courteous, charming and considerate. Well organised."*

*"Absolutely fantastic tour. Superb guide, not only in her knowledge but in accommodating meeting the physical limitations of the group."*

*"It's been great coming back and showing my husband around."*

*"Wonderful building. Friendly staff."*

**Ms Jo Pomeroy - Headteacher**



## Does religion unite people more than it divides them?



This was the provocative title of our Year 13 Religious Studies Conference in October this year. We held the conference at Ilford Library where students

could reflect without the hurly burly of school life intruding.

Helping our students make up their minds on this issue were representatives of different faith groups, including a Youth Worker from All Saints, Woodford Wells, a former Woodford student (now in her final year studying Medicine at UCL), a Sikh chaplain at King George's Hospital and member of the East London Sikh Women's Alliance, and a member of the British Humanist Association. We are very grateful to them for giving up their time to be with us.



**Mr. Becket**  
**Head of Religious Studies**

### Watch This (Spiritual) Space!

We are pleased to report that Room F4 is shortly to be refurbished as a place for silent prayer and meditation. The room is located at the top of the school away from the hurly burly of school life, and will provide an opportunity for reflection at lunchtime. The space is open to all students regardless of religious confession and none. Strict rules will apply so that the space is not misused as a common, lunch or study room.

**Mr. Becket**  
**Head of Religious Studies**



## UK-German Youth Ambassador

Recently, I have been selected by the organisation 'UK-German Connection' to be a Youth Ambassador. UK-German Connection is dedicated to increasing contacts and understanding between young people in the UK and Germany ([www.ukgermanconnection.org](http://www.ukgermanconnection.org)). This year, 30 people from the UK and 20 people from Germany, were selected to be Youth Ambassadors for this coming year.

As part of my role, I attended a seminar in Imperial College and the Europe House in October along with the other ambassadors from the UK and Germany to develop project ideas with authentic cultural input from the ambassadors in both countries. I had a great time meeting new people and thoroughly enjoyed discussing a variety of creative ideas with the ultimate goal of raising cultural awareness in mind. Another seminar will take place in Berlin next year where we will all meet again and reflect upon what has been achieved in the past year.

My main aim is to raise the profile of Germany amongst young people in the local area and particularly in school. I am currently planning projects within the school which revolve around breaking stereotypes that young people have of Germany and raising cultural awareness of the country. I have been liaising with an ambassador from Germany as we are currently organising pen pals between students in our schools. Alongside maintaining pen pals, we are organising a 'Christmas Box Exchange' where a box full of typical British/German Christmas treats will be sent to the other school. I am enthusiastic about working with fellow ambassadors in order to give people an insight about what Germany is really all about!

**By Nikita Gunamal, 11W**



## House Drama 2014

Darker evenings greet us on the return from half term each November, but, by way of compensation, so too does the buzz and activity that heralds the annual inter-house drama competition. Teams of girls congregate in odd places to paint sets, stitch costumes, and marshal an unlikely collection of props. After-school meetings for a period of several weeks are conducted against a swelling sound track as Sixth Form students, who've anticipated the responsibility throughout their Woodford careers, take on the mantle of directors, stage managers, conductors and choreographers. This year's production teams carried forward the tradition with energy and vision and there was much for an appreciative audience to applaud.

**Warner's** choice "*Phantom of the Opera*" transported us to the Paris Opera of the nineteenth century and a tale blending gothic horror and fairy tale romance. A production rich in visual contrasts swept us by way of dramatic choral crescendos between the sparkling social brilliance of the masquerade and the eerie isolation of the phantom's operatic lair. The back-story of this entangled love trio was a lot to condense into 30 minutes but sound, visuals and dialogue all played a part and even audience members with no prior knowledge of the plot came away with a convincing sense of its scope and its drama.

**Repton's** production of Disney's "*Mulan*" told a colourful story from Chinese legend. Hua Mulan daringly impersonates a boy to take her father's place in the army and bring honour to her family. Her identity is discovered when an injury is tended but Mulan is eventually fêted by the Emperor for her courage and ingenuity. Costumes were lavish (and costume changes startlingly efficient) and the vibrancy of the chorus in all its manifestations set the pace and the tone of the piece. The show stealer was a 10 metre dragon in red and gold that wove its way rhythmically through the auditorium.

**Newton** brought us tantalising confectionary, spoiled children and an eccentric entrepreneur in "*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*". It was a production particularly well pitched for its audience who laughed pretty much constantly at caricatures of less than appealing children (with corresponding parents) and the satisfyingly appropriate mishaps which befall them. Strong vocals and the well-rehearsed dance routines of the Oompa Loompas added to the vivacity of a joyful production.

**Highams** brought the animal kingdom singing and dancing to our stage with an energising performance of "*The Jungle Book*". Musicians (and perhaps most memorably an ambitious horn player) were instrumental in the characterisation of old favourites such as Baloo, Bagheera and the elephants. Costumes, face paint and some clever choreography did the rest as Kipling's fable played out before us, "The law of the Jungle" illustrating how to live successfully side by side in a community. A textured and engaging production throughout, it had perhaps the most striking dramatic device of this year's competition in the entrance of Shere Khan – stage design, orchestra and lighting technicians working together to thrilling effect. It's perhaps no surprise, therefore, that the much coveted House Drama Award for 2014 went to Highams House.

**Ms Jo Pomeroy - Headteacher**

## Christmas Concert a Resounding Success



This year's Christmas concert was a wonderful evening of great music performed by a larger than ever number of students. In the first half, students from 8H and 8N performed as a massed Brass Band, while the Junior Band hit a high note playing compositions by the newest member of the Music Department, Mr Mitchell. The second, festive, half, featured a range of excellent readings, and highlights included the Staff Choir's Austrian carol 'Still, Still, Still', the Orchestra's exciting rendition of 'Troika' (Sleigh Ride) by Sergei Prokofiev, and an outstanding performance of Stroepe's 'There Is No Rose' by the Senior Choir. Festive refreshments were kindly provided by the PFA, making for an all-round excellent evening of Christmas cheer.

**Miss Hasler, Head of Music**

## Woodford and Ilford choirs impress at the London International Arts Festival



**Senior Choir at the London International Arts Festival**

The Senior Choir recently performed to an appreciative audience at the London International Arts Festival. The

performance, held in Ilford Town Hall, was part of the city-wide festival which ran throughout the Autumn months, featuring jazz, classical and world musicians.

Following a performance by the Ilford County High School choir, Woodford's singers performed Paul Mealor's *Wherever You Are* – made famous by the Military Wives Choir and Gareth Malone – before the two schools joined together to perform Stanford's choral classic *The Bluebird* – a challenging piece which was performed with excellent musicality. The beautiful vocals of the two soloists – Amrit Kambo, 11H, and Hannah McNaboe, 12JS, were the icing on the cake of an excellent concert.

## Renowned tabla player Kuljit Bhamra visits Woodford



**Kuljit Bhamra works with Year 8 musicians**

an Indian Music and improvisation workshop. Kuljit, who is particularly known for producing numerous Bhangra hits and for his work on the music for films including *Bend It Like Beckham* and Tim Burton's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, led the students through the basics of Indian Classical Music, before performing with them as they improvised on a rag.

The workshop was followed, the next day, by a visit to the Wigmore Hall, where Kuljit was performing as part of London Jazz Festival. The concert featured a range of music based on improvisation, and additionally featured the saxophonist Andy Sheppard and guitarist Aliocha Thevenet, who, together with Kuljit Bhamra, fused together jazz, blues and Indian music.

**Ms Hasler, Head of Music 13**

## Jack Petchey Awards 2014



The Jack Petchey Foundation has been supporting young people across London and Essex for 15 years. On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, I proudly made my way to Redbridge Town Hall for an evening of excitement and celebration; an opportunity to acknowledge the great many achievements of the young people of Redbridge, including 8 award winning students from Woodford County High School. There was an audible buzz in the hall as prize winners and their families and friends made their way to their seats, lights dancing and filling the walls with wise and inspirational words from Mr Jack Petchey CBE himself; "if you think you can, you can".

Each student in turn stepped onto the stage to collect their medallions and meet the VIPs while their achievements were read aloud. The evening was interspersed with entertainment including the newly formed Woodford County High School String Quartet; who performed Presto from Haydn's String Quartet.

May I once again offering my congratulations to all the Award winners for 2013-14, you should be very proud of your achievements!



**Woodford County High School String Quartet.**

**Miss Irwin – Jack Petchey Co-Ordinator**



## Christmas card competition 2014



**Runners Up: Devika Shah 10R with the Christmas Truce and Anjum Ali 9W with the Woodford Robins.**

We received so many creative designs from year 7 to year 10 pupils for this years Christmas card competition. Your contributions are very much valued and we would like to thank you all for your efforts. The runners up for year 7 were Muntashera Uddin (7H), Siha Salim in (7H) & Pebble Joshua (7W) and Tharin Azad (8H), Manasvini Panta( 8R) & Koushiki Alagaratnam (8H) in Year 8. The jury was particularly pleased with Anjum Ali ( 9W), Hannah Hekim (9 W) & Danielle Wong ( 9W) in year 9 and Jeuela Ravindran ( 10H), Devika Shah ( 10R) & Alina Hafeez (10H) in year 10.

We are delighted to announce that Siha Salim in year 7 won the competition. Her night time festive design provides the 2014 Woodford Christmas Card. Congratulation to Siha.

Runners up

**“Judges loved the cheerfulness of the Woodford robins and were impressed that, 100 years after the event, the Christmas Truce was so beautifully commemorated by a Woodford artist.”**

*The Winner's submission can be admired at the end of this Newsletter.*



**7R sing carols at New Jubilee Court sheltered housing.**

Woodford County High School students have been spreading some festive cheer by visiting nursing homes and sheltered accommodation in the local community.



## Classics Visit to Rome

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2014 – this was the day that both Classics and Latin students had been waiting for, ever since convincing our parents that our cultural enrichment outweighed the cost of a trip to Rome. Everyone was filled with excitement and anticipation from the moment we made our departure from school, to the lengthy coach and plane ride, and the frantic claiming of rooms at Hotel ESH.

Once the tour began it was safe to say that there wasn't a single moment when we were bored, with many sights packed into our itinerary. The Capitoline Museums offered us valuable artefacts and statues, a few notable sights being the Colossus of Constantine, and the bronze She-wolf nurturing Rome's twin founders, Romulus and Remus, which remains an iconic symbol of the city to this day, as well as the impressive Equestrian statue of Emperor Marcus Aurelius. The Roman Forum showed how important public life was in ancient times, and the ruins of the various religious, commercial and political buildings seemed majestic even now. After a slight hold-up, we arrived at the Colosseum where the size and beauty of the arena was remarkable, and it was easy to imagine why the gladiatorial matches and events held there were so incredible even in ancient times.

The next day we spent our focus in Vatican City – in the Vatican Museums we were intrigued by the various busts and statues of mythological deities and ancient heroes, whilst the Sistine Chapel and art galleries housed timeless pieces of work such as Michelangelo's famous frescoes.



There was hushed reverence and respect within St. Peter's Basilica, and we all struggled to comprehend the architectural feat and genius of the dome. During the evenings, we were immersed in the activities at the Piazza Navona, and as we sampled our exotic gelato flavours, we observed the talented street artists work beside the beautiful Fountain of the Four Rivers – this place was such a favourite of ours that we had to return here a second time before we left.



We felt incredibly lucky when we got to spend a day at Ostia Antica, which allowed us to walk through the remains of the once thriving harbour city, and our map work skills were put to the test when different teams competed to locate the various well-preserved structures. A few notable sights were the detailed frescoes and mosaics, the relatively intact theatre, and the Capitulum Temple. We explored the nearby catacombs as well, the eerie darkness and drop in temperature adding to the effect of the tour guide's speech on the persecution of the Christians. Later that night, many of us climbed the picturesque Spanish Steps, counting that there were in fact 135 steps, and were rewarded with the view from the top.

Our experiences in Italy were memorable, numerous and priceless – from haggling with the souvenir vendors to see who got the better price, to the curious incident at the hotel where we discovered that fish glue had been used to make our panacottas. We sampled authentic Italian food together, bonded over the hazy early 6am mornings, and helped each other find the best Wi-Fi spots in our rooms. We'd like to thank Mr McClelland, Mrs Douek, Miss Heath and Dr Maldijan for keeping us



organised, safe, and entertained – and for putting up with us on several occasions. To conclude: we came, we saw, we conquered.

**Neha Din 13JMC**

Picture above: Mr McClelland, Mrs Douek, Miss Heath And Dr Maldijan



## Art Visit to Seven Sisters in Sussex

Year 12 Art students had the wonderful opportunity to go on a field trip to Seven Sisters organised by Mrs Campbell, with the aim to define the notion of “ The Sublime ” . They responded to their environments when experimenting with the camera in the evening, making collographs with objects encountered in our daily walk, sketching en plein air and so on... The great weather added to the pleasure of the eye, though contrasting with the horror of cold misty morning amongst the sheep! This trip was ideal for the students to settle in year 12 and to motivate them with the beginning of their studies.

**Picture above: Seven Sisters**

**Picture below: WCHS Mrs Jerome discusses Art techniques with students.**



## Celebrating Languages at Woodford

A dedicated group of year 11 and year 12 students ran events within school to promote language learning in October. The events were formally launched by a school assembly where pupils argued that even though English is increasingly spoken throughout the world, a true understanding of other



cultures cannot be achieved without knowledge of other languages. A week of events then followed and gave all pupils the opportunity to develop their language learning. During the week, girls were given a daily idiom in French, German and Latin

and they were encouraged to use these within their lessons. At lunchtime there were viewings of foreign language films and the week culminated in a Languages Bazaar where for just short of an hour the conference hall was transformed into a hive of linguistic activity. The event proved popular with girls from all years and members of staff. Stalls were manned by pupils and included a cultural quiz between pupils and teachers, tongue twister competitions, number challenges and identification of European flags. [As prizes, girls enjoyed French and German biscuits and cakes.] As attendees left, they were encouraged to write an opinion in a foreign language and girls on hand to help with this. At the end, the school was left with a language wall testifying to the enjoyment of the event and it in no small way reflects the interest within the school of language learning more generally.

Special thanks for their work in this event to **Vaishnavi Ananthan (11N)**, **Abhirame Bavandran (12KE)**, **Nikita Gunamal (11W)**, **Maria Roberts (12JH)**, **Simran Sangla (12MH)**, **Amani Shamas (12JH)**.

**Miss Heath, MFL**

**There is another edition of the Linguist MFL Magazine. Please look at Fronter to access the newest December edition for more articles written by students from across the years on a range of topics.” I will send you a photo to attach to this document in another email, as I will need to look at another document.**



## The Challenge

**The Mark Evison Foundation** was set up to pay tribute to Mark Evison, a brave young soldier who was killed in Afghanistan in 2009. The foundation provides funds to promote the personal, social and physical development of young people and to give them an opportunity to carry out personal challenges. We found out about the foundation when Margaret Evison, founder of the foundation, visited our school to inform us about it and give us a presentation on projects carried out by past winners.

For our Mark Evison project our group (**Tofa Mehzabin 12 NY/SJ, Sahana Kannapan 12 KH and Morgan Difalco 12SDO**) decided to cycle to the Lake District and camp there for two nights. Winning this award was quite a surprise to us as we were up against a number of other groups in Year 12 with such amazing ideas.

We weren't sure what kind of response to expect for our idea as it is extremely challenging and requires a lot of preparation. Out of our group, none of us have done such intensive cycling before, so it will truly be a challenge to us all and help us become more independent and confident in our own abilities. It is our first time planning such a trip by ourselves, organising the places we'll stay at, the routes we'll take and more importantly, deciding how to budget the money.

It is an amazing privilege and honour to have won this award, and we believe it is, without doubt, a once in a life time opportunity. Not only am I getting a chance to go to a place I've always wanted to visit, I'm also being able to challenge myself and find out my own strengths whilst getting to experience this whole thing with two of my closest friends.

**Tofa Mehzabin 12 NY/SJ**



***Our group: Sahana, Tofa and Morgan***

*Dear Tofa, Sahana, and Morgan*

*We very much enjoyed hearing of your plans to cycle to the Lake District and camp there, in June 2015. It is an interesting and demanding proposal, and we would like to give you £250 towards it...Well done on presenting such an adventurous idea, and we look forward to that further detail, and finally hearing how it goes.*

*Best wishes*

*Margaret*



[www.markevisonfoundation.org](http://www.markevisonfoundation.org)

020 8693 2254 / 07789 765 867





## Prize Giving 2014

Woodford's annual prize giving took place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November this year.

The Headteacher's report highlighted the achievement of all the students at Woodford and students delighted the audience with their witty descriptions of a few of the new initiatives and visits from last year. These included the special events laid on to tie in with the Tour de France, a visit to the Olympic Park and a music tour of Belgium.

The audience of students, parents, teachers, governors and guests was entertained by three music recitals, with solo pieces for violin, piano and saxophone. As always, the quality of the performances was commendable.

The achievements of the students receiving their GCSE certificates together with those of the prize winners from other year groups were celebrated as the prizes and certificates were presented.

The highlight of the evening was the speech by Emma Claussen. Emma is a young old girl! However, at 25 her achievements are already impressive: having graduated from Oxford, she is now working on her PhD thesis whilst also earning a living writing and teaching. The quality of her writing was recognised when she became the first winner of the Cassandra Jardine Writing Prize, which was established to recognise outstanding writing in journalism. Emma won the prize for an article published in the Daily Telegraph reflecting upon a visit she paid to Syria when she was ten years old and the way in which the country has changed since that time.

**Mr C Jenkins, Deputy Head**



Picture Above: Guest Speaker Emma Claussen.



Emma's speech was warm and genuine and was well-received by the audience. She spoke of the importance of language and communication to all of our lives and argued that a false dichotomy has been created between

Arts/Humanities subjects and the Sciences; in fact these academic disciplines are all valuable and each encapsulates a different means of achieving a common goal – better communication and a greater understanding of our shared human identity. Emma also encouraged the girls to follow their academic interests and not to be too worried if they don't know what their final career choice will be – just keep your options open, maintain your enthusiasm and work hard; the rest will fall into place.

All in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which combined the celebration of both academic and wider human achievement.

## November



The charity Movember was originally established in Australia and New Zealand in 2004, and began its worldwide focus in 2007. Its purpose is to raise awareness of, and money for, Men's health issues, particularly prostate cancer, testicular cancer and mental health issues. The awareness is raised by men not shaving their upper lip for the 30 days of November.

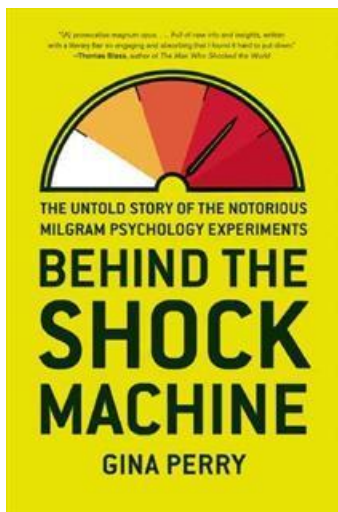
It has become particularly well known through the efforts of celebrities, particularly sportsmen.

For the third year, Mr. Phillips did his best to grow a moustache, despite the girls of WCHS last year voting his effort as "the man least suited to a moustache".

Staff supported Mr. Phillips with (mainly) encouraging comments, and by putting their hands into their pockets and purses to purchase cakes sold in the staffroom at break each Friday of Movember. As a result, the school has been able to send off a cheque for more than £30 in support of the charity.

**Pictures Below: Mr. Phillips before and during Movember:**





## BEHIND THE SHOCK MACHINE

Would you be willing to annihilate 20 million innocent civilians because one figure of authority commanded it? Famously, social psychologist Stanley Milgram claimed ordinary people were capable of unthinkingly committing such atrocities on the grounds they were “only obeying orders”.

For the A level Psychology summer assignment I chose to read ‘*Behind the Shock Machine*’ by Gina Perry. This book takes a completely new approach on Milgram’s research and is very different to the way the A level specification presents Milgram and his findings.

Milgram found that many of his participants, over 60 percent, would administer a shock of 450 volts when a perceived figure of authority told them to. The remaining 40 percent still went up to 300 volts. These results imply that monstrosities may be committed by ordinary human beings. However Gina Perry delves deeper into the authenticity of Milgram’s research. She uncovers many hidden violations about the research itself and about the participants. She found that Milgram had somewhat used his experimental design to elicit maximum obedience from his participants. She visited and interviewed some of Milgram’s participants where Perry uncovers just how self-defeating Milgram’s findings about themselves were. This book goes against the previous conclusion that we are all slaves to power and are just as capable of recreating atrocities such as the Holocaust.

Gina Perry states that Milgram’s ‘performance’ was so carefully executed to avoid any disobedience. By interviewing some of the participants she tries to restore their individuality and we really learn how much the experiment itself impacted the participants. Some participants left the experiment still not knowing that it was a setup, others left horrified by their actions and still to this day some are appalled by their participation. However I did find that Ms Perry’s take on Milgram’s research was slightly less impartial than expected, but nevertheless a good read.

**Cheryl Francis – A level Psychology Student**

## Careers Fair

The Woodford County High School Careers Fair took place on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. The evening began with an introductory speech from our keynote speaker Ms Dal Channa. As a former Woodford girl, Ms Channa was able to impart sound and very relevant advice on career progression to our students.

After the keynote speech, students attended talks delivered by volunteer speakers. We had a wide range of speakers on the night, many of whom were from our Woodford alumni. Students had the opportunity to explore new career paths, giving them a better understanding of the types of careers available to them in the future. Students in year 11 also had the opportunity to speak with their subject teachers about their A-level options in order to help them to make more informed decisions about their studies next year. The evening was a great success and I would like to thank all involved.

**Mr Donohue – Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator**

## Gold Club Accolade

Woodford County High School has been awarded membership of the London Schools’ Gold Club 2014 in recognition of exceptional teaching practice and sharing best practice with other Schools. Ms Chadee and Dr Ashraff collected our certificate of membership, signed by Mayor Boris Johnson, at an Awards Ceremony in City Hall in early October. In January 2015 we will play host to teachers from a number of London schools joining us for professional development workshops here.





## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS



After a successful trial last year, this term the school launched a full suite of after school clubs. We have been extremely pleased with the take up of places and our feedback from the girls has been extremely positive. We are now planning our programmes for the remainder of the academic year. Here is a flavour of what was

laid on:



### FILM SKOOL

The girls were taught about all aspects of film-making, from script to screen. They have now written their scripts and over the next few weeks will be filming them with the help of a small professional film crew. We aim to premiere them at the Curzon Mayfair in March or April.

### MARTIAL ARTS

Girls learned the basics of kung-fu, so those who participated in these sessions should know how to look after themselves!



### DANCING

Our Dance instructor Emily put the girls through their paces with a variety of dance styles, including Bollywood, street dance, hip hop and keep fit routines.



### COOKING PROGRAMME

This was extremely popular and involved hands-on sessions making both savoury and sweet treats. As well as teaching the girls cooking techniques, it was also a tasty and enjoyable way for girls to spend the time.



### SILVER JEWELLERY WORKSHOP

Girls had an opportunity to make some early Christmas gifts in this course, taught by a professional jeweller. With each piece being hand-made and personalised by the girls, these items are definitely not available in the shops.



### CHESS CLUB

It is not often that you get the chance to be taught chess by an International Master, but this is precisely what happens in these sessions. Do we have the next Gary Casparov in the making?

Mr C Jenkins, Deputy Head



On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October, we opened our doors to Mayespark Primary School – the first group to receive specialist Computing workshops as part of Woodford's Digital Schoolhouse.

*"...I had an excellent time – I can't think of a favourite moment! It was all so much fun! We played PACMAN and programmed in Google Blockly... learnt about algorithms, and programming and the Raspberry Pi was just wicked!..."*

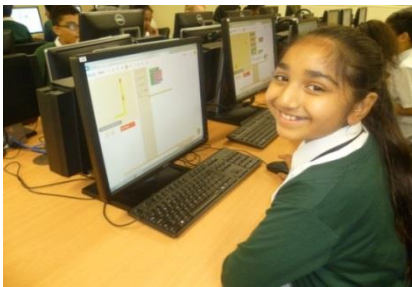
**Pupil, Mayespark Primary School**

In the April 2014, Woodford was 1 amongst 8 secondary schools across London that was awarded Satellite school status for the Digital Schoolhouse project - a project supported by the Mayor of London and Department of Education.

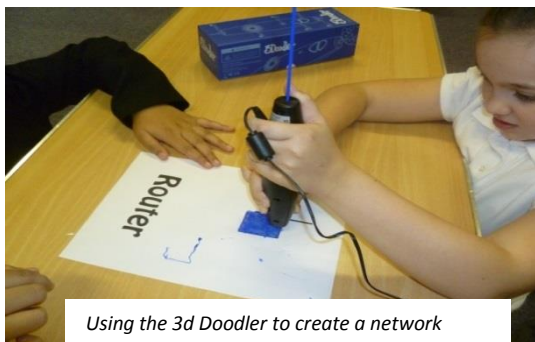
Primary schools in Redbridge are invited to book workshops with us that are focused on the Key Stage 2 Computing curriculum. Students are given a wide range of both computing unplugged and practical tailored activities to take part in. These can range from computational thinking in algorithms, 3D Doodling to create network models, textual and visual programming using Raspberry Pi's, to learning about inputs and outputs using conductive materials and Makey Makey's.

*"....the 3D Doodler's were awesome. It was my favourite part of the whole day!!"*

**Pupil,  
Raylodge  
Primary School**



*Enjoying Google Blockly*



*Using the 3d Doodler to create a network*



*Textual Programming using  
Raspberrv Pi's*

We have successfully received 8 groups of students from 4 different schools during the Autumn term, all of whom have thoroughly enjoyed their day with us and value the digital skills and knowledge they have had the chance to explore and practice.

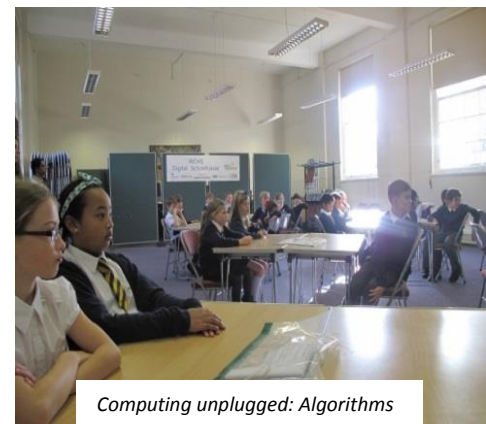
As part of the project we also offer our

support to primary school teachers by offering subject specific training sessions on creative and innovative ways to deliver the Computing curriculum. On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December we welcomed a group of teachers to a twilight session on delivering Computational thinking and textual programming using the Raspberry Pi. All participants appreciated the support, guidance and resources provided as well as the opportunity to work collaboratively on structuring a creative curriculum.

*"...having received no training previously, we found it very helpful as a background to all the third-party software used in primary schools (j2code, Espresso Code etc.)"*

**Wendi Skinner, Fairlop Primary School**

It is of great value to us also to have the opportunity to reach out to local primary schools and offer our support in the huge change in the curriculum. We recognise the importance of good teaching in the early stages to ensure a solid foundation when students reach us in Key Stage 3. We look forward to both the workshops and training sessions that we have booked with us in the new year.



*Computing unplugged: Algorithms*

**Ms N Chadee  
Head of Computing**

## Olympic athlete visits Woodford County High School



On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November Olympic 400m gold medallist and London 2012 silver medallist Christine Ohuruogu visited Woodford County High School. The day was organised by Sabah Mohammed in Year 11, who as part of her role in the Redbridge Youth Parliament pledged to bring inspirational sports people into school. GCSE PE students from Park School for Girls and Woodbridge High School were invited to attend the event along with our own GCSE PE and A level students

### Year 10 GCSE PE students



### Year 11 GCSE PE students



## Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships - Redbridge round.

On the 26<sup>th</sup> November WCHS hosted the first round of the Centre Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships, for both KS3 and KS4 teams. 11 teams from across the Borough took part, all fighting for a ticket through to the county round.

After a packed afternoon involving 125 games of badminton (both singles and doubles) Woodford's KS3 team lost out by just 1 game to our old rivals Bancrofts to come a close 2<sup>nd</sup>, while the KS4 team continued to dominate the event and came out on top, therefore progressing through to the County round of the competition.

Special thanks go to Riya our Games Captain who helped to organise this event and the GCSE PE students who officiated.



Miss Bufton – Head of PE



# Woodford County High School Sports Profile

## Natasha Patel, Shaleen Sayani, Shree Patel, Year 13 - Dance

Dance is a passion for us; it is a stress reliever and a good way to keep fit! We have been dancing from the age of five and hope to take it onto the next level. Currently, we are at Shiamak Davar's Institute for Performing Arts. It's the biggest international dance school that teaches styles ranging from salsa to Bollywood. The foundation of each style is taught in ballet and jazz by trained dancers and instructors from abroad. At this company you can clearly see a pathway to becoming an elite international performer. We are a part of a professional dance troupe within the U.K and are able to perform at a variety of events. A highlight of our career so far has been to perform at the London 2012 Olympic opening ceremony.

In November we had the opportunity to perform at Trafalgar Square as part of the 'Diwali on the Square' festival for the Mayor of London. Despite the downpour, the atmosphere was very lively and was an exciting experience overall. Recently, we have participated in our dance



academy's 'Winter funk' which is a show especially for the students of our academy- to show their friends and family what dance routines they've learnt during this winter term.

In the future we hope to progress to the next level-OYP. OYP is an intensive one year dance training programme in India that helps dance enthusiasts make their passion a profession. It is a holistic learning program that lays the foundation to the participant's journey towards becoming a performing artist. It focuses on technique, training, and knowledge that give individuals a platform to nurture their talent. Having the opportunity to audition for a programme of such high status is an amazing opportunity because an individual can pursue their dreams by learning from one of India's biggest stars, Shiamak Davar, both nationally and internationally.

**Natasha Patel, Shree Patel and Shaleen Sayani Yr13**

## Inter-form Netball 2014

This year over 300 students took part in the Annual Netball Interform Competition – whether that was playing, umpiring or coaching. The Year 10 Sports Leaders did an excellent job of setting up trials and training sessions in order to prepare their teams for the event. All matches were highly competitive and some great netball was seen. Those playing put in 100% effort and enthusiasm in order to gain points for their house. We were lucky with the weather and all matches went ahead as planned. The event was once again a great success and a big thanks to the 6<sup>th</sup> Form and Year 11 Umpires, along with the Year 10 Sports Leaders. Well done to everyone who took part and the results are printed below:

Year 7	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 <sup>st</sup> – Warner 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Highams 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Repton 4 <sup>th</sup> - Newton
Year 8	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 <sup>st</sup> – Highams 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Newton 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Repton 4 <sup>th</sup> -Warner
Year 9	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 <sup>st</sup> – Warner 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Highams 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Newton 4 <sup>th</sup> - Repton
Year 10	1 <sup>st</sup> – Newton 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Repton 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Warner 4 <sup>th</sup> - Highams
Year 11	1 <sup>st</sup> –Highams 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Newton 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Repton 4 <sup>th</sup> - Warner



## The Winning Team Pictures of the Inter-form Netball



**7W**



**8H**



**9W**



**10N**



**11 H**







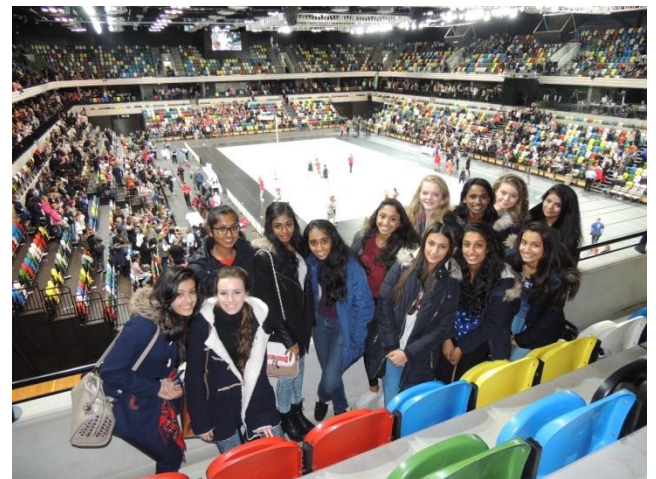
Woodford GCSE and A level PE students had the opportunity to watch the England Netball Team take on Malawi at the copper box on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.



The matches are part of the preparation for the 2015 Netball World Cup, which takes place in Australia in August.



The Malawi team is fifth in the world rankings and finished one spot behind fourth-placed England at the Commonwealth Games this summer. They made a quick start to Wednesday's game, turning over England's opening centre pass, but could not make it last. England was 35-19 ahead at half time.



Malawi put in an improved performance in the third quarter, reducing the deficit to 11, but they could only add five goals in the final quarter, compared to England's 16.

The final score was England 68, Malawi 36.

**Miss Bufton**



## Cross Country 2014



The week commencing 13th October proved to be a very busy but fruitful week of Cross Country competition for Woodford.

On Tuesday a junior, inter and senior team made their way to Wanstead Park for the Borough Cross Country. With 2 weeks of Woodford League races behind them Woodford County were in fine fitness and raring to go. It was a close run race around the lakes but the rain held off to see Woodford place in every category:

### Team

Year 8 & 9 (Juniors): 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Year 10 & 11 (Intermediates): 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Year 12 & 13 (Seniors): 1<sup>st</sup> Place

### Individual top 10 performances:

Annali Olivelle: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

Laurelle Brant: 7<sup>th</sup> Place



Thursday marked the final race in the 3 race Woodford League competition; the girls had worked hard to get into position and needed to hold their form for the final race. Claybury was a mud-bath after all the wet weather but the girls raced round the course holding off the competition to finish as follows:

Year 7 & 8: 1<sup>st</sup> Place

Year 9 & 10: 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

The following girls put in particularly good performances:

Year 7 & 8:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Annali Olivelle 8N
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place: Laurelle Brant 8W
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place: Ella Conlon-Murphy 8H
- 9<sup>th</sup> Place: Zaina Ahmed7W

10<sup>th</sup> Place: Keerthiga Ragavan 8H

- Year 9 & 10:
- 7<sup>th</sup> Place: Megan Bradley 10H
- 8<sup>th</sup> Place: Shaihihiya Sivapalan 10W







**The staff and students of  
Woodford County High School  
wish everyone in the wider school community a very Merry  
Christmas and a Happy New Year.  
(The Winning 2014 Woodford Christmas card was designed by  
Siha Salim in 7H.)**