

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



Issue No 1

December 2010

HEADLINES

Christmas this year will mark the end of my first term at Woodford. My early impressions were of a school exceptional not only in terms of academic achievement, but also in terms of what it means to the students and staff who work here. Three months in the school have given me an insight into what makes Woodford the school that it is: the distinctive traditions that contribute to the school's identity, the belief of teachers in the almost limitless potential of their students, the positivity and enthusiasm of Woodford girls and the considerable leadership capacity of the school's sixth formers. A strong sense of community and common purpose pervades the place. Students are both ambitious for themselves and supportive of their peers – it's been a great pleasure to see the warmth with which students celebrate each other's achievements. Warmth, in fact, is an adjective I've come strongly to associate with Woodford, and certainly the one to describe the welcome I've enjoyed here this term.

The school year began very successfully with another set of really excellent examination results to celebrate. The term has been a busy one starting with the Open Day and the School Birthday in September, then an OFSTED visit, a Music recital and the annual Five-Penny race in October, and Speech Day, House Drama and the excitements of snow fall in November. December brings with it a range of seasonal activities which we will enjoy together, from Christmas Concerts and Assemblies, to Leavers' Prize Giving, Christmas Lunch and the end-of-term pantomime.

I've been glad this term to have the chance to meet with many members of the extended Woodford Community. The Old Girls' Association celebrated the School's 91st birthday on a sunny Saturday in September. Former students and teachers maintain strong links with the school, and their support; moral, practical and financial is much appreciated. The Governors, above all, in these times of uncertainty, have a vital role to play in navigating change and the PFA have worked tirelessly in preparation for their major fund working event of the term: a Christmas Fair held in the school on Sunday 28 November. It's also been my pleasure to meet with a number of parents at House Drama, at Recitals and at Parents' evenings.

One of the privileges of working in a school is the opportunity to be a part of an energetic, diverse and creative community. This newsletter, a joint enterprise of students and teachers, is designed to give you a snapshot of some of the highlights of this last term and a sense of the colour, texture and vibrancy of school life at Woodford.

In concluding I hope that this Christmas Holiday will be a happy and a peaceful one for you and your family. We look forward to welcoming your daughters back to school in the New Year on Wednesday 5 January 2010.

Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher

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Geography Department Review

It has been an extremely busy term for the Geography Department with field visits for Years 7, 11 and 12. AS Level and GCSE students went to Epping Forest to study river processes and Year 7 surveyed the function of buildings along Woodford High Road as part of their current unit of work.

As ever the students appeared to thoroughly enjoy the experience of learning outside of the classroom and having the chance to become clearer about the topics they had been studying.

Thank you to parents for continuing to support these field visits.



At the end of the Autumn Term, Mrs Landsman will be beginning her maternity leave and the department will be welcoming Miss Richardson who will be looking after all of her classes until her expected return in early 2012.

I am sure all of the students and parents would like to join me in wishing Mrs Landsman all the best for the year ahead.

Mr I Saxton
Head of Geography



House Librarians Report

As House Librarians in the Junior and Senior Libraries, we aim to ensure that Woodford County High School's library remains organised and appealing to the rest of the school. We look after individual sections of the library (for example Maths, Biology and Philosophy), making sure that they are kept up-to-date and well arranged.

We have been carrying out surveys with the younger students to find out their views and suggestions for improving the library. As well as maintaining high standards in the library we are also involved in various library events, such as Woodford's Open Day and helping out on "Book Return Day".

Nearly every month the House Librarians in our team, together with Miss Corney, discuss progress made in the library, offer book recommendations, talk about popular events such

as the "Redbridge Book Award" and how we can become involved in activities in the borough.

Being in such positions of responsibility has been a challenging experience, yet the part we play in the library has also been very rewarding.

Vanessa Naguleswaran 13GB
and Safia Hussain 13CH

LIBRARIAN

LIBRARIAN

European Theatre Visits

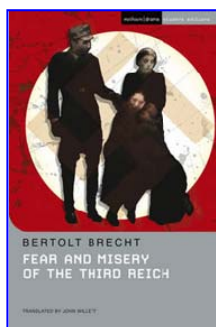
All sixth formers are welcome to attend these visits. This term we have been to see two plays by German writers. The first was "Danton's Death" by Georg Bücher at The National Theatre.



It is 1794 and the French Revolution is reaching its climax. Much blood has been shed. Danton, volatile and full of vigour, is being tormented by the part he has played in the killing. In the course of the play Danton's fate is decided by his political rival Robespierre. We watch the struggle of the titans.

The two, who had once been friends, stand opposed, one standing for ideological purity and the other for compromise. The guillotine awaits.

This play is one of the greatest political tragedies ever written.



In this collection of playlets we saw the morally defunct and distressing realities of the Nazi regime in Germany.

We saw shocking events intermingled with humour and viewed something of the suspicion, anxiety, betrayal and dread accompanying the growth of Hitler's power.

Miss Corney

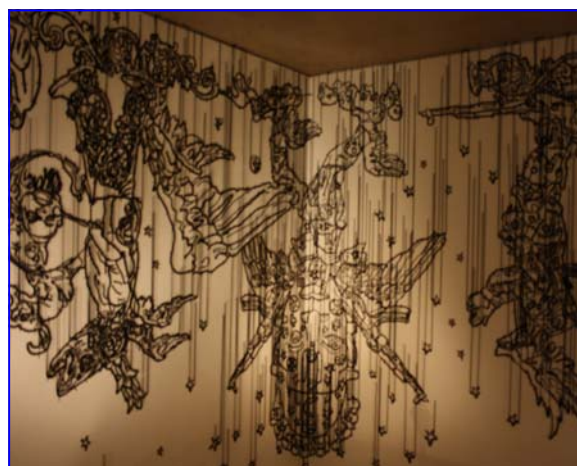
Modern Language Department

Art Department Visit

On the 6th October our small group of year twelve art students took to the streets of London's East End and visited various galleries. Unlike the usual trips to the Tate Modern and other large, famous galleries, we visited intimate exhibitions held by individual artists. The work ranged from the Ancient World at the British Museum, to taxidermy at the Last Tuesday Society.

In particular, the artist Hew Locke stood out to us (his work is shown here). He had installed a series of beaded chains with a glue gun to form line drawings. It might sound simple, but it certainly impressed us! The unusual medium he used to draw with inspired us to put down our pencils and pick up strange and different forms of media.

After walking the distance from Holborn to Bethnal Green, our insightful trip came to an end. We left London loaded with art magazines, leaflets and postcards of the next generation of artists, and of course, we left packed to the brim with ideas.



Simren Channa, 12JMc Leah Neyogi, 2CH
Caitlin O'Connell, 12YM Kajal Patel 12SB

GCSE SCIENCE LIVE

It was a dreary Friday morning, and in any other case we would be praying for the weekend. However on this particular Friday morning not like any other—we were visiting the Dominion Theatre in London to attend GCSE Science Live, where we were to learn about science first hand from some of the most renowned names in the scientific world. After watching chemists such as Dr Andrea Sella and Professor Sir David King in videos during science lessons, and seeing the space scientist and Blue Peter star, Dr Maggie Aderin on TV, it was a

rare and exciting opportunity to hear from them in person. We were awestruck by the various chemicals in flasks that spontaneously changed to every colour of the rainbow, intrigued to find out how the zebra got its stripes, and inspired by the people who have worked to make climate change such an urgent matter in modern politics. We left feeling truly motivated by the lectures, and it was evident to us, by the end of the day, that science is about so much more than just wearing a lab coat.

Abhi Theivendram 11R

AN AFRICAN ADVENTURE

In the summer of 2010 two groups of Woodford girls, team “Tro Tro” and team “Zingolo”, ventured into the depths of Ghana, not knowing what experiences they would encounter. They had planned for nearly 18 months; working together to raise funds, plan an itinerary and prepare themselves as much as possible for the culture shock they were about to experience. Finally the time had arrived and the teams landed in Ghana to find themselves welcomed by smiles, warmth and hospitality from the local people. It was overwhelming.



The journeys through Ghana led the teams to isolated villages, tumbling waterfalls, exotic rainforests, mountain tops and bustling markets. They encountered giant spiders, ants in their pants (literally) and even more friendly locals. They learnt to expect the unexpected and realised they could achieve anything if they worked together as a team. The final part of the adventure allowed the teams to relax on isolated beaches, feel the atmosphere of the old slave forts, canoe and kayak in the sea, and simply to have showers and a well deserved rest.

Both teams worked at a kindergarten school, helping to render and decorate the classrooms to make a fun but educational learning environment. During this time they also experienced the local culture of the community; learning how to cook Ghanaian food, playing the local drums, fetching water from the well, and generally interacting with locals. It was heart breaking to say goodbye to the friends that the teams had made during their time on project but it was time to move on to other adventures.

Both teams arrived in Ghana as wide eyed, naive girls, but left as humble, mature young women. Definitely an experience of a life time that would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of the staff and leaders from Woodford and Wilderness expertise.

Miss P Sehmi
Expedition Organiser



WOODFORD'S WISE WOMEN WOW BANK OF ENGLAND ECONOMISTS!

On Friday 12th November a team of four Year 13 Economists, Alex Bick, Laura Sarpong, Aruna Pahwa and Kate Stockings, set off to Central London to take part in the Bank of England's interest rate challenge. This was a day that had arrived following a great deal of preparation and hard work but behind all the nerves were four very excited and competitive Woodford girls!

As a team of four we had to act as the economists for the Bank of England. Having decided where to set the interest rate level we delivered a ten minute presentation on why and how we had made our decisions. Then came quick fire questions from the Bank Of England economists. A great deal of preparatory research was required but having perfected our scripts and polished our presentation, we were ready to go. We were up against some well-known schools such as Dulwich College (last year's National winners). It was a relief to go first on the day and having finished, be able to sit back and enjoy everyone else's presentation.

The day taught us a great deal about economics, not only related to the syllabus but also about wider issues within the economy. The experience allowed us vastly to improve our presentation skills, giving us a rare opportunity to work as part of a team on a large project and present to a large audience. The day was a very enjoyable one and to end on a high, our team finished as runner up to Merchant Taylor's School. The judges complimented us on the clarity and structure of our presentation and soundness of our economic knowledge under questioning. A fantastic achievement and reward for all the hard work and effort put in!

Kate Stockings, 13JMC



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Dear Staff of Woodford County School,
Thank you for raising £345.43 with your coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support!

We hope you and your guests had fun and put a smile on your mugs for this year's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. The money you've raised is part of the amazing £8 million we hope to raise this year to help improve the lives of people living with cancer. Thank you again for being part of our biggest fund-raising event.

Macmillan Cancer Research UK

CHILDREN IN NEED



£127.50 was raised for Children in Need by Mrs Quinlan the School Cook, by selling raffle tickets to win a giant cupcake.

PE DEPARTMENT NEWS

CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the girls who have been competing in the Woodford League cross country over the first half term. After four weeks of tough competition the final results were:

Year 7 & 8 team came 2nd.

There were over 46 girls taking part in the Year 7 & 8 competition and after 4 weeks, Mayo Oremakinde was ranked in 8th place.

In the Year 9 & 10 competition, there were over 30 girls from across Redbridge and Essex schools taking part and the team did exceptionally well to achieve 1st place. In the individual rankings:

Oyinkansola Oremakinde - 3rd

Billey Bradley - 4th

Abigail Saffron - 5th



On 11th November the teams competed again in the Borough Cross Country at Claybury. The final results were:

Junior Girls (Year 7, 8 & 9) = 4th place

Inter Girls (year 10 & 11) = 1st place

Senior Girls (Year 12 & 13) = 1st place

The following girls have been selected to represent Redbridge in the Essex Schools County Cross Country Championships:

Jessica Murphy
Eleonora Vriend
Oyinkansola Oremakinde
Meg Ward
Natalie Flanagan
Kate Stockings
Melody Ihuoma
Isabelle Murphy

Miss E Bufton
Head of PE

ROWATHON

This years Rowathon was held on 16th November and created great excitement as the girls battled against each other to get their boat to the finish line. All year groups had the chance to compete and were helped on the day by the sports leaders and member of London Youth Rowing. In the Staff v Sixth Form race the teachers held onto their lead with Mr Maldjian taking first place. The event raised £342.95 which will go towards replacing the rowing machines lent to us by London Youth Rowing after the 5 year contract is over.



NETBALL

On 23rd September the Sixth Form netball team competed in the first round of the All England National Schools Netball Tournament; (beating off Valentines, Trinity, Wanstead and Seven Kings) and went through as runner up to represent Redbridge in the Essex tournament. On Sunday 28th November the girls played fantastically at the second round of the competition,

winning games against Highams Park and Forest. They finished overall in 6th place. Although the weather was against us; it was -3°plus factoring in the wind chill, in true Woodford spirit our girls wrapped up warm and worked with determination regardless.



SCHOOL SPORTS COORDINATOR REPORT

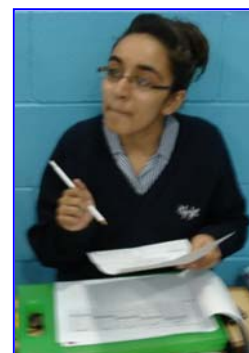
School Birthday saw its first big sporting competition with Year 7s exerting lots of energy taking part in the **Redbridge Fitness Challenge**. All the girls did really well, some activities were quite demanding for our newcomers but Aamina Yousaf won the title of 'Fittest Year 7 Girl' in our school. 7W were the 'Fittest Tutor Group' and we were awarded 2nd place to Caterham from the eight schools in the borough that took part.

All pupils were asked to make a small donation to the British Heart Foundation which raised £74.83 and 7H won the award for raising the most.



Year 10 & 11 **Sports Leaders** have been very busy this term volunteering to officiate and help out at our sporting clubs and events where without them many of these activities would not take place. These include lunchtime clubs, KS3 Borough Badminton Competition and a big thank you to the girls who stepped in at the last minute to officiate at the Primary Cross Country Competition.

There are lots more events planned so plenty of volunteering opportunities for you all to get involved.



It is very satisfying to see that both our **Badminton KS3 & KS4 teams** go through to the East London Finals in the Centre Parcs Competition. The girls in the KS4 team were Ranveer Athwal, Herkiran Kambo, Akshaya Satheesh & Priya Shah who came 2nd in the Borough competition. Seven teams took part with Valentines A, WCHS and Trinity B coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

After a month's break, November saw the KS3 girls competition held at WCHS. Five teams enjoyed plenty of game time, we entered three teams in this section with our A team, Riya Amin, Pearly Garg, Saloni Makhija & Atena Ahmed, winning the competition, Chadwell Heath and Woodbridge taking 2nd and 3rd place.

Well done to all the girls and good luck in the next round at Newham on the 4th February. A special thank you to our two Level 1 coaches, 6th formers, Aarti Velani and Divya Divakaran who helped coach them to success!



November saw the launch in Redbridge of the **adiStar Challenge** and in WCHS by our four Year 10 Sports Ambassadors Ellen Madhani, Sabrina Munir, Helena Ruffy & Meg Ward with the help of our own Caterham SSP Young Ambassador, Jenny Essery. This is run by the pupils for the pupils and they want everyone to join together in small teams to take up sporting missions launched by Adidas to get more young people to try sport in the lead up to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Well done to all our girls who have taken part in so many activities this term!

Mrs L Turnbull
SSCO WCHS

RELIGIOUS STUDIES CONFERENCE

On 18th November, the Year 13 students had the opportunity to attend an RS conference in Ilford Central Library, away from the hustle and bustle of school life. Here, they were given the chance to learn about, debate and discuss thought-provoking moral issues such as suffering. Joining the students were key members of the community, representing different religions and their beliefs. In this integrated religious environment, students spoke in groups about issues that are normally difficult to discuss, and the five different speakers,

such as Mark Fleming, a member of the Brahma Kumari Movement and Navreet Singh, a Sikh youth worker shared their knowledge, understanding and beliefs of the main topic "suffering". The day enabled girls to have some of their questions answered, whilst allowing them to form more questions and encourage their curiosity about ethical issues. At the end of the day, the girls were given a chance to reflect upon the valuable things learned, and evaluate the day. All in all; an interesting and thought-provoking day!

Inayah Zaheen
Head Girl

HARVEST WINDOWS



Congratulations to 8R and 10R for winning the Junior and Senior sections of the Harvest Window design competition.

The windows can be viewed on the school website .

Mr G Becket
Head of RS

FIVE PENNY RACE

This year we raised a fantastic £1,845.98 in an hour at lunchtime on 14th October.

The Race is held in memory of Kim Holdstock, a girl who died very suddenly of Leukaemia.

Each House makes lines of 5p pieces along the back terrace, and Repton House laid the most lines again this year.

A slideshow of the event can be viewed on the school website.

Mr G Becket
Head of R.S



THE IAN DUNCAN SMITH DEBATING CHALLENGE

Woodford's team of Aarti Velani, Krishanthi Jeyakumar, Prianka Das and Melody Ihuoma, were brimming with ideas on our motion, 'This house believes that single-sex schools have a place in modern society', was ironically matched by an *all-girl* Bancroft's team. The exchange of glares and narrowing of eyes escalated as each team bombarded the other with a series of rebuttals, shaping quite a tense, yet enjoyably, competitive debate.

Despite our initial nerves, intensified by a last minute change of team member, we managed to remain confidently cohesive in our arguments, whilst also managing to deliver vigorous and fervent responses to our opponents, as well as including occasional humour which the judges seemed to enjoy. With both teams succeeding in impressing the judges, it was a tight verdict; Bancroft's, however, narrowly claimed victory.

Aarti Velani
12JMc

'MACBETH' AT THE GLOBE THEATRE

In November the English Department received some very exciting news; we had been offered free tickets for a performance of Shakespeare's '*Macbeth*' at the Globe Theatre in Southwark.

For a number of years, Globe Education has been running schemes to encourage young people to engage with and enjoy Shakespeare. This particular project is aimed at Year 8 students and includes a visit to the Globe in March as well as a teacher INSET day. I was lucky enough to attend the INSET day in November.

Globe Education prides itself on developing active and engaging approaches to Shakespeare. The INSET day included training in a range of dramatic approaches to Shakespeare's plays, including, amongst other things, galloping the beats of the iambic pentameter! Whilst this was all very good fun its application in lessons should also prove very beneficial for our students' appreciation of Shakespeare's language, characters and stories.



Mrs G. Charlton
English Department

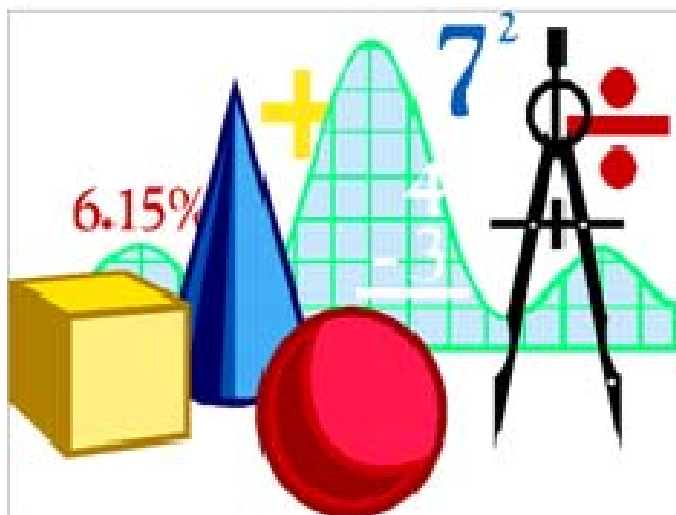
UKMT SENIOR TEAM

MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 25th November, the Regional Final of the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge took place at Queen Mary College with a team from Woodford attending. Our team consisted of four students, two from Year 12 (Kirsten Ward and Divya Divakaran) and two from Year 13 (Colette Shaw and Serena Bagria), with Mrs Dannatt accompanying us. At the event there were three rounds each lasting 40 minutes, which needed to be worked through as a team. There was a great deal of variety between the rounds, as the first involved problem-solving.



The second involved completing a challenging crossword and finally for the third round, we all contributed in a series of mathematical relays. The Maths Challenge was a great experience and provided us with a wonderful afternoon, where we had the opportunity to display teamwork and communication skills in an environment heated with competition and passion for the subject. We were proud to finish 8th out of the 38 schools in London that had attended.



Serena Bagria 13CB

THE INVESTOR IN CAREERS AWARD

We are proud to announce that WCHS has been successful in achieving the Investor in Careers award (as of 3rd December!). This is a kite mark for quality standards in Careers Education and Guidance (CEG), a set of standards against which the quality of CEG provision in school can be measured, and which provides a framework for continuous improvement of CEG. We are the first school in Redbridge to receive this award and are therefore especially proud of our achievement!

Through your daughter's PSHE Careers lessons we aim to give impartial advice and information about the different career paths and options that are available, and to encourage her to investigate them independently, introducing her to a range of resources that can help. To give an example, during their sessions this term, Year 11 have had the opportunity to listen to careers talks from visiting speakers (including some parents of our own students, and ex-pupils) on a range of careers, choosing from architecture, engineering, construction, law, film publicity, nursing and midwifery, to name some. These talks have offered them the chance to ask questions from people employed in these fields of work, and to find out the reality behind the job titles.

To achieve our final award, students from years 9-12 prepared a brief presentation to a panel of four external assessors, outlining how the careers lessons they receive in school have helped them with their choices and maybe even made them think more broadly about the options open to them. Well done, and thank you to these girls - Billie Bradley and Mahnaz Haque (9H), Mariam Bhayat, Beatrice Leong and Helena Ruffy (10R), Jourdan Hammond and Prabisha Jeevanandan (11W), and Rajveer Sangha and Shreena Radia (12BQ). Input from students at other stages in the award was also hugely appreciated.

Incidentally, if there are any other parents who would be willing to talk about their career paths to students in Year 11, and can be flexible in fitting around a school timetable, we would love to hear from you, and we will respond even if it is not immediate. The girls really appreciate hearing about experiences first hand, a point which came across very strongly in their presentations.

Mrs Smith
Careers Co-ordinator



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

This year Woodford launched its first Christmas Card competition open to all girls in the school. There were lots of amazing entries and Ms Pomeroy, Mrs Manning and Mrs Handley spent a great deal of time deliberating over the images and choosing the winners based on the entry criteria. It proved to be a really difficult choice and in the end four girls' designs were chosen for a selection of cards as opposed to just one card design. Many girls were commended on their designs and were awarded prizes by the head teacher in a special assembly. The designs have been scanned and printed and they have been available for sale for the last few weeks in school at the cost of 50p each or £2.50p for six.

Congratulations to Katerina Fletcher, Oyinkansola Oremakinde, Reema Akhter and Prash Vijayan on their winning designs and thanks to all the girls who entered with their superb designs.

Mr D Parry
Head of Art



Katerina Fletcher 10R



Prashanthana Vijayan 10R



Okinsola Oremakinde 10N



Reema Akhter 12BH

CRISIS BAZAAR

Woodford Girls, renowned for their fundraising efforts and input into the local community, successfully organised a lunchtime bazaar for Crisis, the charity for the homeless.

Tuesday 30th November saw all Year 12 girls pull together in their form classes to prepare, organise and run different stalls. As usual, no one's imagination let them down and the variety of ideas for fundraising was vast: apple bobbing, hair straightening and guess the teacher from the baby photo and Santa's Grotto to name but a few!

Despite the fact that there was only an hour to set up, run the stall and clear away, before whizzing back to lessons Year 12 still managed to raise an amazing £586.99

Yazmin Gachette 12JMC



ROMEO and JULIET

Last Thursday, Year 10 students were treated to an abridged performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet, by undergraduate students from East 15 Drama College. Romeo and Juliet is the tragic story, set in Verona, of two lovers from enemy families. As part of the GCSE syllabus we will be studying a Shakespeare text and we have only ever read or watched films of his plays. Therefore we were all very excited about watching some live Shakespeare for the first time.

The actors presented the play in a creative way using a semi-circle formation to indicate the stage area and a roulette table showing the play began at a party. In between scenes, the actors dramatically crossed the stage and music played. We were told at the end that all sound effects played throughout the show were actual recordings from space. This was used to represent the idea of 'star crossed lovers'.

It was important that each character was portrayed clearly. So that we would be able to understand what was happening even if sometimes the language was unfamiliar modern props and costumes were used. The Capulet family wore gold, black and white dresses, suits and accessories to indicate the wealth which they liked to flaunt and the more modest, yet richer and more established Montague family wore casual red clothes. The actors had decided that the reason for the families rivalry was based on money.

Overall, our year very much enjoyed the show and we were very impressed at how easy it was to follow the plot. I recommend anyone who has the opportunity to watch a play by Shakespeare to do so as it is much more enjoyable than reading the texts or watching the films.

Ellen Madhani 10H



NOISES OFF

From early in October an atmospheric change was perceptible around the corridors of Woodford. A sense of purpose entered the stride of students at lunchtime; Sixth Formers juggled scripts and scores with neglected lunches; younger students started moving in packs, bubbling excitement tempered by the pledge to secrecy. Behind closed doors decisions were being made, plots were being thickened (or rather the reverse), designs formulated. Then came the sound track: tentative at first, building to a full vocal crescendo for Mid-November.

House Drama was upon us transporting students, teachers and parents at half hour intervals from a Greek Island wedding to the television studios of Baltimore, from the corridors of Harvard to the Plains of Africa. Casts were epic in size and cohesive in performance. Costumes were donned and doffed at staggering speed, and choreography made ambitious use of limited performance space. They were, quite literally, dancing in the aisles.

Individual performances drew the eye and illustrated the wealth of dramatic talent in the school. What most impressed, however, was the intelligence of the direction, the collective focus of the performers and the unity of each production team.



The leadership potential of Woodford Sixth Formers was very much in evidence in the steering of each performance from its initial inception, through successive stages of casting, rehearsing and blocking to its realisation on stage. Each production was superbly supported from the orchestra pit, and the visuals of each set - costumes, props and backdrops - both added to the colour and texture of the drama and testified further to the enormous collective effort behind each production.

Visiting judges Jane Hall, Yvonne Cooper and Keith Davies, had years of experience to draw on as they withdrew (for a number of days, it seems) into a judicial huddle to consider their verdicts. Newton, Warner, and Repton all secured commendations and prizes in a range of categories but the accolade of Overall Winner of House Drama 2010 went to Highams for their compelling dramatisation of a call to Kingship in the African jungle.

Congratulations to everyone who played their part, on-stage or off, in the House Drama competition. An energising event and very much the stuff of which memories of Woodford will be made.

Embryonic Stem Cell Lecture

Arriving at our neighbouring school, Bancroft's, Woodford's Sixth Form Biology students huddled cosily together in the lecture hall full of anticipation and excitement at the opportunity of learning more about the science behind the current, controversial topic of embryonic stem cells. Dr Chittka from UCL, accompanying the lecture with short vivid films, explored the depths of the truly remarkable nature of embryonic stem cells, with their ability to generate *any* cell type in the body.

Needless to say, we were all amazed, especially by the stunning example of neurogenesis in the embryonic stem cell of a zebra fish, where the transparency of the cell enabled us to view the development of a neurone. As expected, Woodford students, as well as teachers, did not fail to think of many questions at the end, concluding this interesting insight into embryonic stem cells.

Aarti Velani 12JMc

