

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Issue No 3

19 July 2011

HEADLINES

***"Yesterday a child came out to wonder
Caught a dragonfly inside a jar
Fearful when the sky was full of thunder
And tearful at the falling of a star."***

Joni Mitchell 'The Circle Game'

The summer term, with its tidying up of one academic year and its preparations for the next, puts a focus on the cyclical nature of school life. On how, to quote the chorus of the song, *'the seasons, they go round and round'*. Within five school days earlier this month formal gatherings in the hall marked the emotionally charged graduation from school of Year 13 and welcomed to Woodford the Year 6 students readying themselves for promotion to secondary school in September. Significant rites of passage for the girls themselves, but perhaps even more so in each case for parents for whom such transitions must serve as very positive feedback on decisions made, on relationships forged and on goals achieved through partnership.

This term we say goodbye to a number of staff, all of whom have made a significant contribution to Woodford. Retiring teachers include Mrs Bianca Handley (Head of Italian), Mr Dennis Elgie (ICT and French), Mr Peter Townrow (part-time Physics) and Mr John Turl (part-time Physics). Colleagues leaving us to pursue opportunities elsewhere include Mr Jason Kendall (Head of Social Sciences) who moves to Putney High School GDST, Ms Jenny McDonagh (P.E) who joins Samuel Rhodes School, and, on the support team, Mrs Maxine Handley, Mrs Vivien McCaffrey and Miss Vicki Lennard. Woodford has benefitted immensely from the experience and expertise of these colleagues and we are indebted to them. All leaving colleagues will be much missed in the Woodford community but we wish them all well with future ventures and are confident that, like so many before them, they will choose to remain in contact with the school.

I am pleased to report that we have been successful in recruiting to all teaching vacancies and that the school will be fully staffed with subject specialists for September. We will welcome three new teachers: Ms Kathryn Broom (French), Ms Holly Keeling (P.E.) and Ms Sheena Patel (Physics). In addition Mr Keith Barnard joins us as School Business Manager, a new post at Woodford.

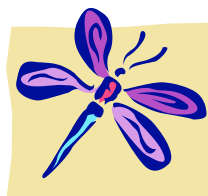
This third edition of our newsletter provides a snapshot of all that has been going on at Woodford this summer term. As you will see, that encompasses all kinds of everything.

The creativity of Woodford students has been showcased both by the exceptional quality of work displayed at GCSE and A-Level Art exhibitions and by the designation of Year 7 entries in a Design competition as *"the strongest in the country"*.

The 29th Summer Production brought students in all year groups together for a production of "Annie". Our thanks to Jane Hall, Janet Chapman and the team not only for a wonderful evening's entertainment, but also for giving so many of our students the experience of working together on so ambitious a collective venture. The longer days and (generally) milder climes of the summer have accommodated a wide range of visits and field trips, the most adventurous of which – an expedition to Morocco – sets out next week. I'm sure you join with me in thanking the colleagues who work so hard to make these enrichment activities a part of the Woodford experience.

The end of this summer term marks the end of my first year at Woodford. I close by thanking you all for the warmth of your welcome and by wishing you all a really enjoyable and restorative summer holiday.

Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher



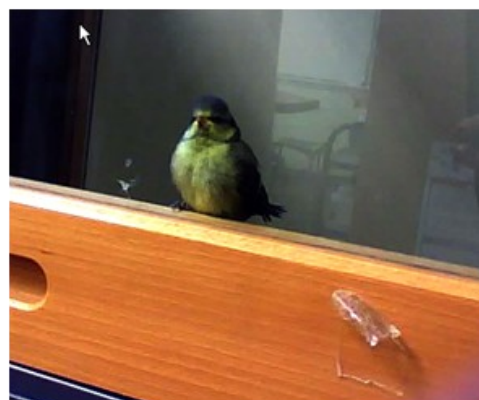
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SCIENCE DEPARTMENT UNEXPECTED VISITORS

On the 19th May, the mystery of the curious tweeting noises coming from lab. 3 fume cupboard was solved when a blue tit fledgling was found there. The next day, four more fledglings emerged and had to be released into the trees outside. It seems they had fallen down the extractor pipe into the cupboard from a nest (made by the parent birds) in the outside part of the extractor pipe.

Mrs K Mitchell
Science Technician



FAIRTRADE

Last summer a spokesperson from the People and Planet organisation visited Woodford and highlighted the importance of Fair Trade. Students subsequently formed a Fair Trade Committee which set itself the objective of encouraging the school's uniform suppliers to sell shirts made of Fair Trade cotton. The campaign started with research into the uniform currently on sale. It was discovered that one of the suppliers, *Lucilla's*, already sold Fair Trade shirts. It being determined that the cost difference between Fair Trade shirts and non Fair Trade shirts was very small, an approach was then made to the school's other supplier, *Henry Taylor's*. A very positive response was received. A commitment to researching the Fair Trade option was voiced. Stock orders are placed, of course, a long time in advance of sales but it is hoped that this time next year Fair Trade shirts will be available from both suppliers.

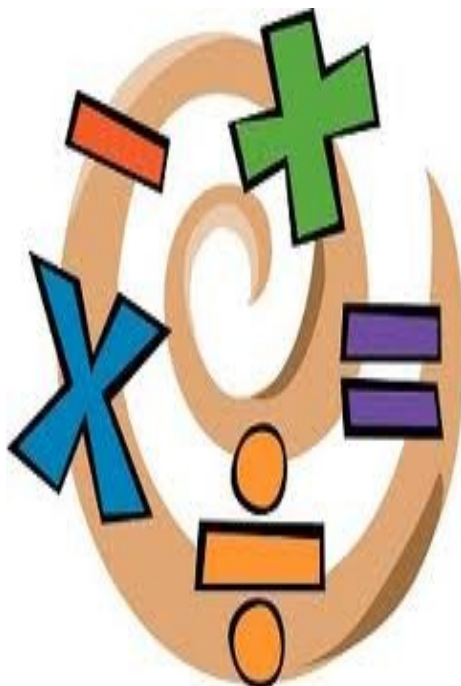


Fair Trade Committee : Bhuvana Thayalasamy,
Vanessa Naguleswaran and Safia Hussain
(Year 13 members)

THE ROYAL INSTITUTION MASTERCLASS FOLLOW – UP

On Saturday 25 June, six of us were invited to the prestigious Royal Institution in Central London for a follow-up Maths Masterclass, celebrating the achievements of notable Mathematicians such as John Crank. We had previously attended Maths Masterclasses at Queen Mary College, in which we expanded and developed our knowledge of the numerical world and explored fun aspects of topics from engineering to music. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and the programme was a great learning curve for us all.

Qudsiyah-Bano Agha-Shah 9H



REDBRIDGE YOUTH MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 6 July, a team of four Woodford girls accompanied by Miss Rickard participated in the Redbridge Youth Maths Challenge at Oaks Park High School. The team consisted of two Year 9 girls – Priya and Mathanki, and two Year 10 girls – Sushila and Jenny. We spent the afternoon answering a series of challenging questions. In the end, we came fourth out of twelve schools. It was a very enjoyable afternoon, even if it was an INSET day!

Priya Radia 9H.



JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

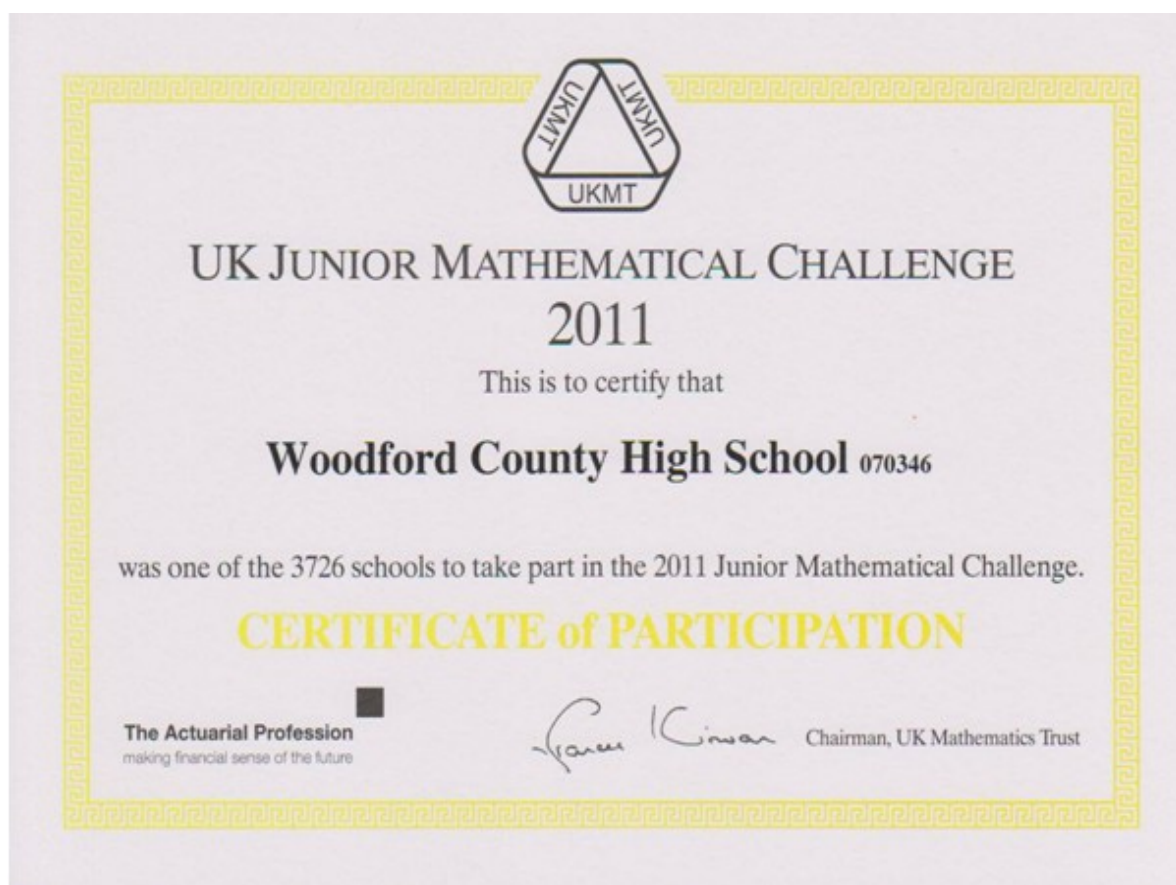
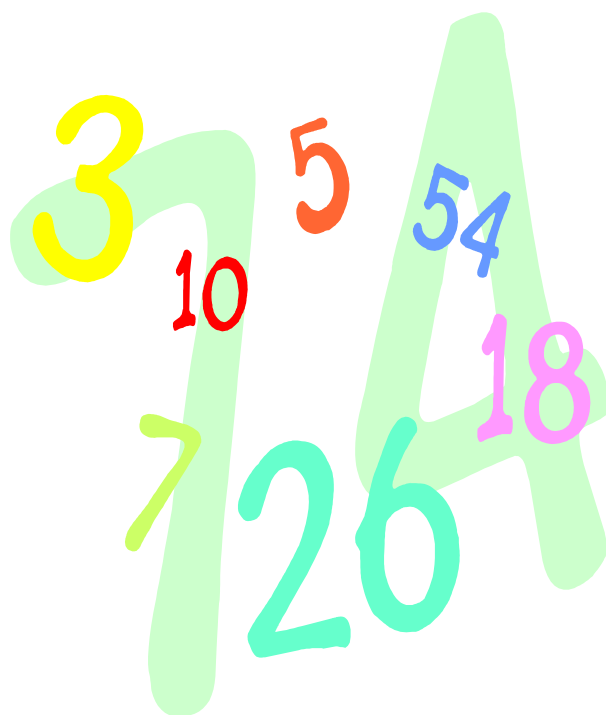
At the beginning of May all students in Years 7 and 8 took part in the Junior Maths Challenge. Most students completed the challenge in school but some energetic Year 7s sat the challenge in Glasbury after a full week of activities!

Woodford students were very successful gaining a total of 21 Gold awards, 42 Silver and 62 Bronze.

The 'Best in School' certificate was awarded to Nabeela Farooq in 7N with a score of 96 out of 125.

Our congratulations go to all certificate winners and well done to everyone who took part.

Mrs Y. Thompson
Head of Mathematics



HOLIDAYS IN GERMANY

If you are interested in planning a summer or winter visit to Germany and can read some German you may be interested to read what Alexandra Prellberg in 8H has to say about holidays in Germany.

Möchten Sie Ihre Ferien in Deutschland verbringen?

Ich habe einige Vorschläge. Hoffentlich wird dieser Artikel Ihnen helfen.

Viele Leute verbringen Ihre Ferien in Deutschland.

Warum machen sie das?

Manche Leute mögen kalte, weiße Plätze mit vielen grünen Bäumen. Manche Leute mögen große Städte mit vielen Sehenswürdigkeiten.

Hier sind ein paar schöne Ferienorte in Deutschland:

Berlin: Berlin ist die Hauptstadt von Deutschland. Da findet man viele Restaurants, Modeläden, Konzerte, Orchester, Museen, Kirchen und andere Sehenswürdigkeiten. Berlin ist wahrscheinlich mein Lieblingsferienort in Deutschland.

Hannover: Hannover ist auch eine Großstadt. Da findet man auch viele Restaurants, Modeläden, Konzerte, Orchester, Museen, Kirchen und andere Sehenswürdigkeiten. Es ist ein bisschen kleiner als Berlin, aber es ist immer noch ziemlich groß.

Leipzig: Leipzig ist eine ziemlich große Stadt. Da sind auch viele Sehenswürdigkeiten da. Leipzig ist gut, wenn man übernachten will, weil sehr viele Hotels da sind. Ein Hotel, das ausgezeichnet ist, ist Hotel Fuerstenhof. Die Hotelzimmer sind sehr groß, und es hat ein Schwimmbecken.



Das ist ein Foto von ein paar Seilbahnen über dem Gebirge. Es sieht aus, als würde es Spaß machen, aber es könnte auch erschreckend sein.

Das ist ein Foto von ein paar Bergen in Deutschland. Da sind viele Tannenbäume. Im Winter sieht man auch viel Schnee.



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHEMISTRY

You may or may not know that this year is the International Year of Chemistry. 2011 not only marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies, it also coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Madame Marie Curie. At Woodford we decided that this was a brilliant opportunity to celebrate the role of women in chemistry and seeing as though Woodford hosts many budding female chemists this was an opportunity not to be missed.

On Wednesday 22nd June, year 10 students took part in the global experiment uniting students all around the world. Our experiment involved us clarifying pond water. This experiment highlighted to us the role that chemistry plays in issues of water quality both where we live and also in 3rd world countries where clean drinking water is definitely not taken for granted.

For our experiment we had to create a filter using a bottle, coffee filter, sand and pebbles. Although the results were astounding and the water was crystal clear, we couldn't drink it. Instead we sent the data to the Royal Society of Chemistry where they pooled results from all over the world.

We all enjoyed the experiment and luckily the weather was good so we were able to do the experiment outside. It was great to get involved in the International Year of Chemistry 2011 and we hope that Marie Curie's achievements will inspire Woodford girls for years to come. Year 7 and 8 students also took part by carrying out a solar still challenge and testing the PH of the planet.



Students from 10R

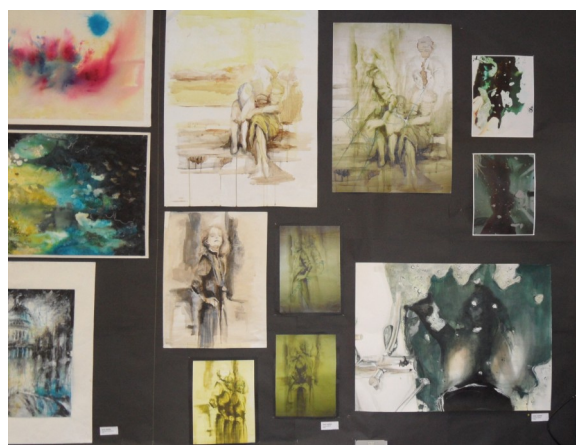
ART EXHIBITION

This years GCSE and A level Exhibitions were a tremendous success. A huge amount of work by both staff and students went into the preparation of creating the work, organising the spaces and the installation of everything. This years attendance was superb and lots of the girls got to celebrate their successes with their friends, family and other members of the general public and teaching staff. It's always so wonderful to celebrate 5, 6 and in some cases 7 years of work that the girls have invested in.

This is the culmination of so many fantastic new skills acquired and ideas being realised. All three year groups have been an absolute pleasure and Art staff have already commented on how much they'll be missed. Many of the sixth form girls go on to prestigious places in arts and architecture and to those who leave Art behind we wish all the best. We're really excited to see what next year brings now the bar has been set so high. A huge thank you should go out to all those who've supported our exhibitions this year and also those parents whose carpets we've ruined over the last few years.

Mr D Parry

Head of Art Department



TECHNOLOGY NEWS



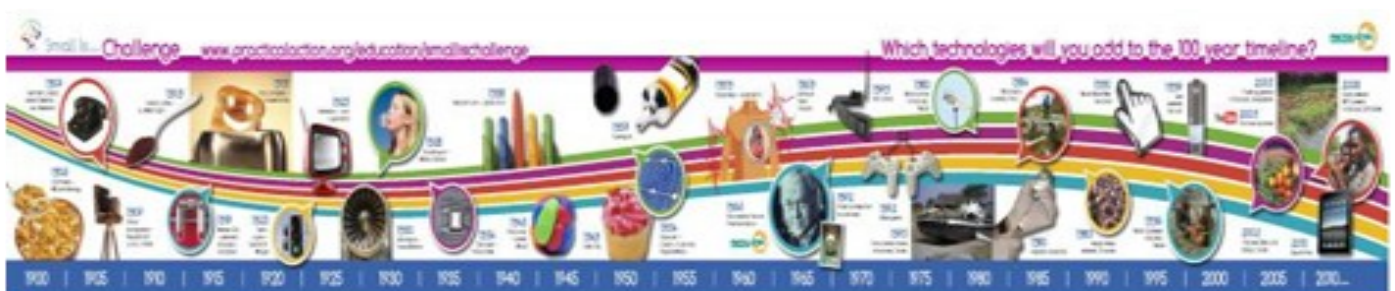
Some of you may remember that our Year 7s took part in a nationwide competition organized by Practical Action as part of their Design & Technology syllabus. The Challenge was open to all students country wide and Practical Action commended us on the high standard of entries received from WCHS.

The "Small Is...." Challenge took place back in April and we recently received the wonderful news that Irum Hasan of 7N has been declared the winner.

Practical Action have also chosen Sunita Ramani of 7R and Hannah Kauser of 7H as runners up. Irum received a Solar Powered MP3 player as her prize, and Sunita and Hannah received solar powered robot kits. Very well done to all the Year 7s for producing such a high standard of work, and special congratulations go to Irum, Sunita and Hannah on their successes.



Ms J Karavasili
Head of Design Technology



GEOGRAPHY FIELD VISITS

It has been an incredibly busy term for the department with field visits organised for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The weather was reasonably kind to us but rain was unfortunately experienced in each of the three locations. A montage of images can be seen below.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who have supported these visits. The voluntary contributions are absolutely necessary to enable curriculum visits to occur and offer our students the valuable experience to learn outdoors and develop important personal skills.

During the next academic year it is the department's intention to offer some of the geography students the chance to undertake an overseas extra-curricular visit with a strong focus on the subject itself. I hope to bring you more news of this in the Autumn Term.

In the meantime, on behalf of the Mrs Smith and Miss Richardson, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday and ask if you would encourage your daughter to keep a distant eye on some of the major global events during the next few months.

Mr I Saxton
Head of Geography





YEAR 8
HERNE BAY

GEOGRAPHY FIELD VISITS

YEAR 9 CLACTON ON SEA



YEAR 13 LEAVER'S DAY

As a final farewell for the year 13s of class 2011, year 12 hosted a Hawaiian themed party. Upon entering one was instantly greeted by the striking 'ALOHA' banner before going on to be completely immersed in the Hawaiian spirit. The line of life-sized, handcrafted palm trees and the exclusive 'Tiki Bar' were just a few of the features enjoyed by students and staff alike. Food and music generously contributed by year 12 made the event a tremendous success. Year 13 were extremely grateful for the effort that had gone into the event and the fabulous send-off they received.

Aarti Velani and Simran Channa



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

As part of extending their knowledge and skills in leadership, Thashmim Miah, Aarti Velani, Simran Channa and Aleisha Best (members of the Silver Badge team) attended Wilson's School, Sutton. Invited to the event were senior prefects, student heads and deputy heads of grammar schools around the M25 region. The day consisted of an engaging Keynote Address detailing the qualities of a good leader, followed by several extremely interactive sessions with the other students where networking was encouraged. The skills learnt on the day will surely be of aid to the girls in their roles of responsibility within the school and later in life.

Aarti Velani and Simran Channa

LIBRARY NEWS

Shadowing the Kate Greenaway Book Award

Woodford pupils are not too grown up or too grand to enjoy shadowing the Kate Greenaway Book Award. The carefully shortlisted titles are well written and beautifully illustrated. Younger Woodford girls have fond memories of reading in their younger years and many have enjoyed coming up to the library to borrow the selected titles, and a few days later returning with their voting slips. This year we borrowed six copies of seven of the eight shortlisted titles. Our votes are as follows:

April Underhill Tooth Fairy by Bob Graham	93 votes
Jimi by Mini Grey	84 votes
Big Bear, Little Brother by Carl Norac	67 votes
The Heart and the Bottle by Oliver Jeffers	55 votes
Me & You by Anthony Browne	45 votes
Cloud Tea Monkeys by Mal Peet	40 votes
Earnest by Catherine Rayner	36 votes

We have just heard that this year's Kate Greenaway Book Award has been given to "FARThER" by Grahame Baker-Smith, the one book we did manage to borrow a pack of or to read!



Shadowing the Carnegie Book Award

The Carnegie Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people

As we have done for the last few years we borrowed six copies of each of the selected titles. Interested pupils have in recent weeks been coming up to the library at lunchtime to borrow these books and when they have read the books they have returned with their completed voting slips.

Our votes this year are :

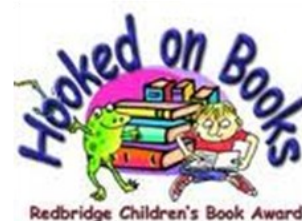
The Bride's Farewell by Meg Rosoff	23 votes
The Death Defying Pepper Roux by Geraldine McCaughrean	18 votes
Prisoner of the Inquisition by Theresa Breslin	17 votes
White Crow by Marcus Sedgwick	14 votes

This year the Carnegie Medal has been awarded to "Monsters of Men" by Patrick Ness. It may be an excellent book but it did not fare well in the voting at Woodford



THE REDBRIDGE BOOK AWARD 2011

We have once again greatly enjoyed taking part in the Redbridge Book Award. In the autumn librarians in the Borough met and selected teen books and children's books for this year's award. A few weeks later boxes of the selected books were delivered to the schools and pupils began to read the books. Our readers this year were from years seven, eight, nine, ten and thirteen. As we read the books we voted on them, awarding them marks for enrichment and enjoyment. After some weeks our votes were counted and our shortlist was, along with those from other schools, sent to the borough. The borough shortlist was then made and pupils had more time to read the shortlisted books.



On the 7th July we were pleased to attend the Redbridge Book Award 2011 event in the Hawkey Hall in Woodford. There was book signing by authors and shortlisted books were on sale. There was a table quiz on the shortlisted books followed by an author panel. It was a treat to meet real authors and to hear Cathy Cassidy, Tim Collins, Joe Layburn, Eleanor Updale and Keren David talking about their lives and work.

At the end of the afternoon the Redbridge Book Award for the best Children's Book was presented to Cathy Cassidy for her book "Cherry Crush" and the Redbridge Book Award for the best teen book was awarded to Malorie Blackman for her book "Boys don't cry".

Miss C Corney
Librarian



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ritika Gera and to Monica Sharma in 8N whose short stories were runners up in the Redbridge Libraries' Short Story competition this year. The stories have both been included in the anthology "Reflections".

Miss C Corney
Librarian

LEE VALLEY WHITE WATER CENTRE SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

On Tuesday the 28th of June, we visited the Lee Valley White Water Centre (LVWWC). This brand new white water centre will be used for the London 2012 Olympic Games and we were one of the first secondary schools to experience the thrills of the course.

The white water rafting was an exciting and exhilarating experience. Our raft had 8 people, including the 'terrified' Mrs. Turnbull, the 'fearless' Ms. Fearnham and the 'brave' Miss. Bickley who aided us in completing the course successfully 3 times. The amount of water flowing down the course each second was the equivalent to 75 bath tubs. The best position in the raft was definitely at the front, where you were most exposed to the rushing rapids and crashing waves.

To add to the excitement, half way through our second run thunder and lightning descended upon us and left us scrambling for the shore. However the weather didn't keep us from winning the GPS orienteering challenge in a record 9 minutes, climbing to the top of the treacherous rock climbing wall, kayaking 200m, cycling one lap of an Olympic velodrome (which Phoebe did in 17 seconds).





The Woodford competitive spirit was clearly evident throughout the day, especially when we told our fellow Woodford girls to go the wrong way in Orienteering just so we could win!



The day was educational and exciting and we all had a wonderful time despite the thunderstorm, we were even filmed by a TV crew which was highly embarrassing.



CHILD DEVELOPMENT

In June, 42 Year 10 students, three or four at a time, visited Salway Playgroup for a morning as part of their Child Development course. The visit was designed to enable the girls to observe children under the age of five and discover their capabilities eg. knowing numbers, colours and letters, holding a pencil etc. During their time with the children they played with them, joined in games and helped staff wherever possible. Their findings will help them with Coursework which is a major part of their GCSE and includes studying a child under five for six months and making a suitable toy, book or game for the child. The girls all enjoyed their time with the children, complaining that it wasn't long enough and begging to be allowed to visit again! Four girls were lucky enough to accompany the children to the local fire station and even joined them for a ride on a fire engine. We are very grateful to Salway Playgroup who have welcomed Woodford Child Development students for several years.



Mrs S Matthews
Child Development

THE SCHOOL OFFICES

Once again we have enjoyed meeting the challenges of the ever changing environment of the school offices.

A big change this term has been the replacement of our over 25 years old telephone system. Whilst we are still familiarising ourselves with the new handsets, we are encouraged by the efficiencies that a modern telephone system offers us including the option of voicemail messaging and direct dial calling.

The school office continues to be staffed during term-time from 8.00am to 5.00pm.



The office staff would like to take the opportunity to thank all those students who brought in Thank You cards and gifts. It always good to know that we are appreciated and valued by the girls.

Thank you again.

MEMORIAL GARDEN

We are indebted to retired staff Mrs. Pettit and M. de la Sablière who have renovated the Memorial Garden.



YEAR 10 ART STUDENT VISIT

On 18th May 2010, Yr 10 art students visited the Parasol Unit and Hunterian Museum as part of their project on Passions and Obsessions. It was a stimulating experience and enjoyed immensely by all.

The Parasol Unit is a gallery situated near Old Street in East London. We attended an exhibition called 'I Know Something About Love' which featured four artists including the work of Yinka Shonibare. In this work Shonibare applies a playfully political perspective to his exploration of the theme of love in the eighteenth-century Rococo period in France. Shonibare installed a maze within the gallery which we were able to walk through and stumbling upon figures dressed in stunning African fabrics in the style of the Rococo period. We particularly enjoyed this work because there was a sense of excitement and anticipation as we navigated our way through the maze.

At the Hunterian Museum we were astounded and fascinated as soon as we entered. The museum is inspired by the life and work of the surgeon John Hunter (1728-1793) and displays his collection of human and animal anatomy and pathology.

At the time of his death in 1793 he was regarded as one of the leading medical figures of his generation and the pioneer of a new style of scientific surgery. His museum was regarded as being of such importance that it was purchased by the government and presented to The Royal College of Surgeons of England. We viewed hundreds of fascinating curiosities bringing our understanding of Biology to life. We were all interested in different things and sat ourselves down in front of our favourite objects to do sketches and make notes. Some of the preserved life was difficult to look at but others very beautiful and we enjoyed having the opportunity to study them so closely.

The day was inspiring from start to finish and it has helped to underpin our theme of Passions and Obsessions. We are now developing our own ideas around the theme and using John Hunter as an amazing example of what it is to be dedicated and passionate in life.

Yeside Balogun and Zainab Mukhtar

10H



LAB 7 SOLAR SYSTEM



Mr Leo would like to thank Sinthuja Viyasar, Hayley Simon, Sobitha Kumararajan, Rhiannon Lock, and several others who played bit parts in helping to get this project off the ground and for helping him to fulfil his ambition of producing a large scale model of the solar system in Lab 7.

There were many technical difficulties to overcome, not withstanding how to make a globe, one metre in diameter stay spherical. Although not entirely finished, we are just adding the final touches and should be finished by the end of this week.

The girls have spent the last two years producing the planets, overcoming many obstacles and fitting it all in amongst exams, UCAS applications, interviews and Spring production.

Well done ladies and thank you again. You have left behind a legacy that will benefit future WCHS students.



Mr G Leo
Head of Physics

PSYCHOLOGY VISIT TO THE FREUD MUSEUM ON 8 JULY

One sunny afternoon, late in the summer term, a select group of Year 12 Psychology students took a journey back in time. Their destination was Finchley not far from Hampstead Heath. We were going to visit the North London home of Dr Sigmund Freud, the famous Viennese psychiatrist and psychoanalyst.

20, Marefield Gardens is where Freud fled to from the Nazis in 1938. He lived there during the last year of his life with his daughter Anna Freud, a child psychologist and psychoanalyst in her own right. The house is just as she left it when she died in 1982.

Packed with famous historical objects and family mementos, Woodford students were able to visit Freud's consultation room with its large collection of antiquities. Freud collected ancient deities and had his favourites lined up on his desk. He is said to have addressed them as friends and would pick them up and consider them while he was working.

Freud is credited with being one of the founders of modern psychology. Many of his theories are questioned by practising psychologists and psychiatrists, however, artists, photographers and film makers are still influenced by Freud's ideas.

Besides its permanent collection, the museum holds temporary exhibitions of art work. A collection of recent photographic work currently on show raised lots of questions amongst our group. We spent some time talking in depth with Ivan Ward, the Education Officer at the museum. A Freudian expert, Ivan was able to give us Freud's views on sleep, the interpretation of dreams and human sexuality. The extent of the discussion suggests that Freud's views remain controversial to this day.

Ms E Liebeskind
Psychology Dept



WILLIAM MORRIS BENCH

For several weeks this term, we have had Tim Ward a local community artist in school. He has been working in collaboration with year 9 groups to support him in creating some public sculpture and installation in South Woodford. The proposed work is to be installed near Waitrose and will be a permanent legacy for the school and the girls involved. In this particular case, the girls have been researching and thinking in particular about the designs for a floor space and some benches and have focused on images associated with Winston Churchill, William Morris and Sylvia Pankhurst.



They have been developing lots of ideas which will link the work to these key local figures. The work is being created and installed using money from the developers of the Queen Mary Gate development in South Woodford and another part is in collaboration with other local groups and primary schools. The works are yet to be made, so hopefully you'll be able to see them and the girls contributions in the months ahead.



Mr D Parry
Head of Art

WCHS PUPILS LOOK AT THE OLYMPIC 2012 TIMELINE

The 2012 Summer Olympic Games, officially known as the Games of the XXX Olympiad, are scheduled to take place in London, United Kingdom, from 27 July to 12 August 2012. London will become the first city officially to host the modern Olympic Games three times having previously done so in 1908 and in 1948.



London was elected as the host city on 6 July 2005 during the 117th IOC Session in Singapore, defeating Moscow, New York City, Madrid and Paris after four rounds of voting. The successful bid was headed by former Olympic champion Sebastian Coe.

The Transport

TfL also propose the construction of a £25m cable car across the River Thames, the "Thames Gateway Cable Car", to link 2012 Olympics venues. It will cross the Thames River between Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks, carrying up to 2,500 passengers an hour 50 metres in the air.

It is designed to cut journey times between the O2 arena and the ExCel exhibition centre – both of which are Olympic locations. The privately-funded system could provide a crossing every 30 seconds. They also plan to have 80% of athletes travel less than 20 minutes to their event. This Park would be served by ten separate railway lines with a combined capacity of 240,000 passengers per hour. Park-and-ride plans are also among the many plans aimed at reducing road traffic levels during the games.

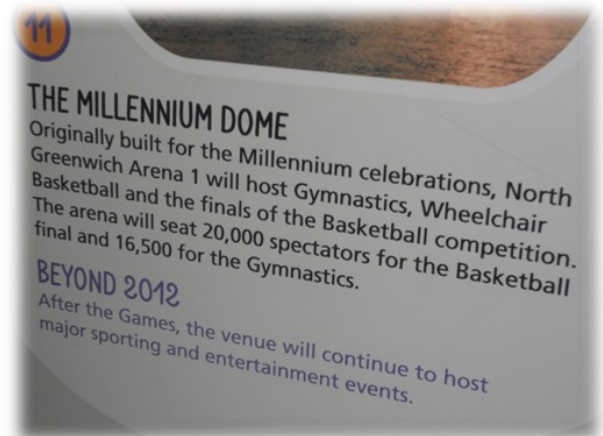
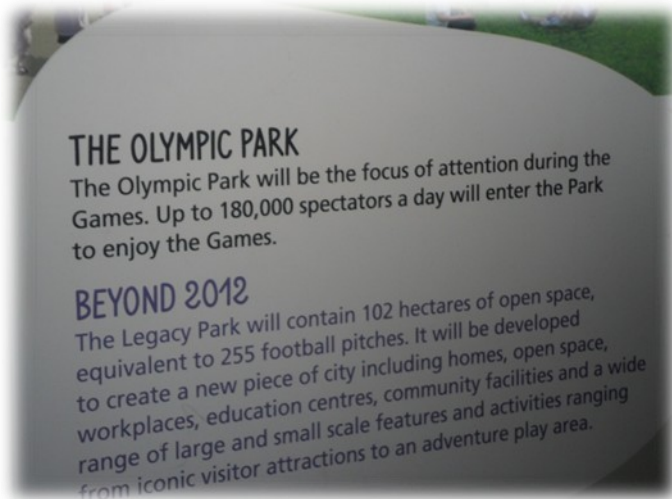


The Olympics encouraged a redevelopment of many of the areas of London in which the games are to be held – particularly themed towards sustainability – while the budgetary consideration have generated some criticism.



London's public transport was an element of the bid which was scored poorly in the IOC's initial evaluation. Transport for London are carrying out numerous improvements in preparation for 2012, including the expansion of the London Overground's East London Line, upgrades to the Docklands Light Railway and the North London Line, and the introduction of a new "Javelin" high-speed rail service, using the Hitachi Corporation's "bullet" trains.

Sivanthi Kanagasundaram



This is where all the sewage will be pumped during the Olympic Games. SMELLY!

But it's got to go somewhere! There are drawings on the front that will be painted to make it look pretty!

The Velodrome. This is where cycling will take place.





View Tube - This is where the press and visitors go to take their pictures of the site for free.

On the 11th April 2011, some students from our school in years 7, 8 and 9 were invited on a tour to the Olympic Park. We travelled to Stratford on the underground and then took the DLR to arrive at Pudding Lane. We met our tour guide and started on the tour. We first met the Olympic Stadium where we could see a long pathway that was being created for everybody to walk along to enter the amazing stadium in 2012. We were then told about the two mascots Wenlock (the Olympics mascot) and Mandeville (the Paralympics mascot) that had been created for 2012's Olympic Games. They were created from the last two drops of British steel used for the London 2012 Olympic Stadium. Wenlock's name was inspired by Much Wenlock in Shropshire which is the heart and soul of Olympic history and Mandeville's name was inspired by Stoke Mandeville in Buckinghamshire, the birth place of the Paralympics. We were also told about the Orbit, which is a construction that is being made. When it is finished it will be the tallest construction in the UK. It will have a restaurant on the top where people can go and enjoy the view. Overall the afternoon was very exciting and we learnt a lot about the Olympic Games in 2012.

Zara Shah 9N

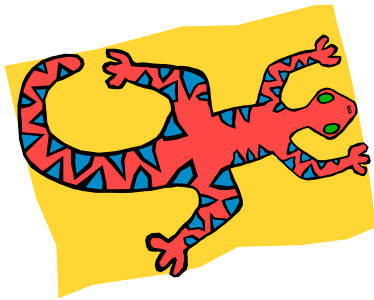


Woodford Girls at the Olympic Stadium

BIOLOGY TALK ON 'REGENERATION'

The Biology department provided an opportunity for year 12 and 13 Biology students at Woodford to attend a talk which explored the topic of regeneration with Professor Lars Chittka. The term 'regeneration' may be familiar to science fiction fans of Doctor Who, however it is scientifically the reactivation of development processes to restore missing or damaged tissues. This is a revolutionary development in science and scientists are using it to explore new possibilities.

The talk related it to stem cells, which are able to divide into differentiated cells capable of carrying out different functions of the body. Organisms differ markedly in their ability to regenerate parts.



Although humans are unable to regenerate, the talk showed examples of animals such as the Salamander which can regenerate its tail, limbs and eyes. Unlike us mammals, the number of stem cells in the salamander is unlimited. The only true regeneration that occurs in mammals is in deer, which shed and grow new antlers for each new mating season.

An interesting experiment shows that a flatworm in a pond can be cut into 278 parts and it would regenerate rapidly, so that each small piece grows into worms. All the attending students were fascinated by the talk and has many intriguing questions about regeneration to ask.

Sinthiya Kanesaratnam 12SH

DEBATING SUCCESS

This term, our Junior Debating team won the local round of the Redbridge Debate Challenge held at Beal High School on Tuesday 21 June. This was particularly impressive as our team was made up of Year 9 students, whilst many of the other competitors were students from Year 10. The girls, Tsara Crosfill-Morton, Iman Khan, Anisa Khatoon and Saba Qureshi, all in 9H, then represented Redbridge against 22 teams from schools representing their London boroughs in the final of The London Debate Challenge. This event took place at the Central Hall, Westminster on Friday 1 July, they and their supporters felt exhausted but satisfied that it had been a thoroughly worthwhile experience, from which much had been learnt.

The event started at 9.30 in the morning and did not end until 5.30 in the afternoon by which time the girls had engaged in three debates, two of which had to be prepared by them, with no help allowed, in 20 minutes.

Although our team did not win the event, they argued strongly and convincingly in all of their debates and proved to be very worthy ambassadors for the school and the borough. By the end of the day, they, and their supporters felt exhausted but satisfied that it had been a thoroughly worthwhile experience, from which much had been learnt.

Ms C Burgess
Head of English



SUMMER PRODUCTION— ‘ANNIE’

The 29th Summer Production at Woodford, which played to highly appreciative audiences in the School Hall last week, in every respect struck a very positive note at the end of the academic year.

The context of the play (strikingly visual in this production, in the three dimensional under-the-arches backdrop for the Hooverville number) is the grinding poverty of The Great Depression: unemployment; the abandonment of children to the care of the State; economic stagnation; political satire and despondency in leadership spreading from the top down. A context, one might argue, designed to put the challenges of our own age of austerity into some sort of perspective.

"Annie" is set in the New York of 1933 and by introducing us to a cast that spans the social spectrum from President to down-and-out, entrepreneur to laundry boy, career woman to orphan girl, the full impact of the Depression is explored, as we see the very differing responses of individuals to the challenging times to which they were born.

The size of the cast and the diversity of roles in this musical showcased the skills of our actors at Woodford: 68 cast members, drawn from all three Key Stages, took on the 91 roles listed in the programme. Performances in the orchestra and production assistance backstage brought involvement in this creative partnership to something in excess of ten percent of the school's entire roll. An undertaking of epic proportions.



The spotlight on the "Little Girls" of The Municipal Orphanage, of course, makes this musical a very inclusive venture for a girls' school. Creative choreography and some secure and highly engaging ensemble playing characterised orphanage scenes. The frustrated romantic aspirations of the very unmatronly Miss Hannigan were captivatingly

portrayed by Kathryn Kitchener, whose convincing physical portrayal of inebriation raised a few eyebrows over the course of the evening.



The annual Christmas PR stunt of the self-made billionaire Oliver Warbucks, taking in an orphan for Christmas, transports Annie to the opulence of his New York home. The visual contrast in both the set and the costumes in this production was striking, but the atmosphere of the household as the eleven year old weaves her way into the man's affections was best conveyed by the interactions between the very English butler Drake



(Eleanor Bridger) and the household staff - faultless musical dialogue, characterised by warmth, wit and wisdom.

The machinations of Miss Hannigan, her wide-boy brother Rooster and his floozie Lily, in plotting to exploit the billionaire's \$50,000 commitment to finding Annie's parents, culminate in the most boisterous musical number of the show. Simran Seehra, Zofia Duffy and Kathryn Kitchener brought the house down with their expansive envisioning of life on "Easy Street", "where the rich folks play".





The juxtaposition of poverty and affluence, criminality and philanthropy, the personal and the political, gives the telling of Annie's story its rhythm, colour and texture. The destitution of Hooverville is offset by the colour and style of New York sidewalks ("NYC"), visually contrasted in this production through make-up, costume and the notable poise of the choreographed pedestrians. A further flavour of the times is provided in auditory form with the advertising jingoism of the radio station and its bright-smiled Boylan sisters. Then the mood moves to its opposite, the weighty deliberation of the White House Cabinet into which Annie is ushered to speak to the President. Franklin D Roosevelt (played with gravitas and considerable flexibility by Lara Janes-Walton) astounds his colleagues first by inviting Annie to sing and secondly by charging them – the men in suits – to do likewise. The red-headed orphan's (by now well publicised) optimism about "*Tomorrow*" turns the tide, and the meeting ends with the promise of "a new deal for Christmas".

And so the plot speeds towards its happy ending. The fraud of the Hannigan clan is uncovered, the self-made man (in a transition sensitively demarcated in Isabelle Woolley's portrayal) is reconnected with his emotions by the adoption of orphan Annie and the insinuation of an awakening romantic interest in his Personal Assistant (played with extraordinary poise by Esme Adams-Walsh.) The house is decked out for Christmas, there are parcels with bows for all the little girls still languishing in the orphanage, and even Drake the Butler lets decorum slide for a moment to punch the air in celebration.



The juxtaposition of poverty and affluence, criminality and philanthropy, the personal and the political, gives the telling of Annie's story its



All this, achieved against the continuing economic devastation of the Depression, by the influence of the irrepressibly positive frame of mind of an eleven year old girl. It's not only the plot of this musical, however, that champions the energy and optimism of the young. The production itself makes huge demands of an inevitably young actor, and congratulations are due to the eponymous heroine of Woodford's production, Erika Moradi, who rose brilliantly to the challenges, musical and physical, to pull off this lead role.



So "Annie" follows in the long tradition of highly acclaimed productions directed by Miss Hall and Miss Chapman and supported by the considerable expertise of an army of former students, staff and friends of the school. As it



takes its place in the archive we extend our thanks to everyone whose generosity in the expenditure of time, energy and expertise

made this possible. The orchestra of course, kept on its toes by the need to respond to numerous on-stage cues and prompts, was a vital component and we thank Mr Neal and Mrs Carpenter for their continued support of this annual venture.

No review of Woodford's 29th Summer Production would be complete, of course, without reference to the heart-stealing performance of Sandy the dog. If you didn't make it into Woodford to see "Annie" you may never know quite how hard our captivating actors had to work to compete with the response elicited by just a few movements of this mutt's, admittedly rather cute, mongrel head!



Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT NEWS

Boulogne, France - Friday 1st July

8 H were the last Form Group to spend a day in Boulogne this year. Read their comments about the day!

I think Boulogne was really fun and I especially liked the aquarium. It was amazing. I thought the trip to the castle was good but it was a long walk uphill. Very tiring! I also liked going to the hypermarket as it gave me a chance to practise my French .

Lauren

I really really enjoyed it and I hope that there will be another day like this

Gissonna

It was a great opportunity to learn outside the classroom-

Natasha

I especially enjoyed shopping and buying things, especially when you have to ask things in French.-

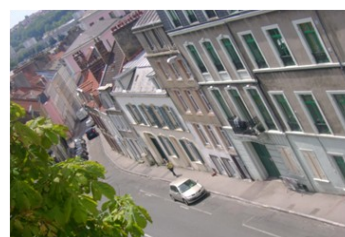
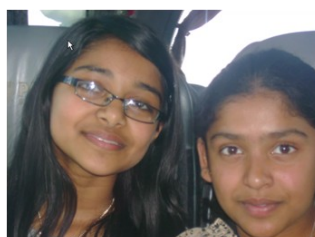
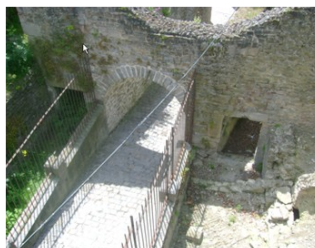
Emayanga

I think that the Boulogne trip was great, the day was well planned out and the journey was not as long as I expected it to be. I loved the aquarium. It was a great experience and it was fun to actually use our French! The cathedral was beautiful- I have never seen anything like it! The shopping was fun, ordering and speaking in French.

Samiyah

I especially liked the fact that I was able to speak in French to French people.

Sonja



TAFAL- Teach A Friend A Language

Competition- Friday 1st July

More than 100 pupils from 18 schools visited Woodbridge High School for the event. Many of the pupils were dressed in the national costume of the countries they were representing, making the event very colourful. There were also table displays highlighting interesting aspects of their culture and language. Pupils, who come from a background where languages other than English are spoken, paired up with friends to teach them the language in advance of the competition. For the competition they took turns performing their dialogue in front of a judge.

I would like to congratulate the following girls for their efforts and hard work preparing for the competition.

Keesha Meisuria and Nilaa Subendran with their Gujarati conversation and Deepeka Khosla and Ela Arivalagan performed a Hindi role-play.

I wanted to learn a new language. Deepeka and myself though it might be good fun. The day was really good, as we got to experience other cultures. We even got to eat a lot of food!

Ela



LANGUAGES AND MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

This is an opportunity for our Year 9 girls to use their Language skills in a different context. Using their mathematical skills, Year 9 pupils are asked to answer problems written in French, German, Italian and Latin.



LANGUAGES TALKS BY SIXTH FORMERS

Year 12 students gave a series of talks in French and German to KS3 and KS4 pupils. The talks took place at lunchtimes or during timetabled Languages Lessons. The Sixth Formers offered a range of topics, including Maths, Geography, Biology, History and Food Technology. I would like to congratulate all the Year 12 students for their hard work and commitment preparing for these sessions and I hope that the pupils who attended the lessons enjoyed the experience of having a subject taught in French or German.



FRENCH NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS



To celebrate the French National Day also known as Bastille Day, the French Department organised a variety of activities. Year 12 French students sold French Food at break time, raising money for a French Charity, organised a Treasure Hunt at lunchtime and KS3 pupils were asked to complete a quiz during Form Time. French Food was also available in the canteen, the French National Anthem was played during Music lessons and some classes learnt a little bit more about the day in their History lessons. Thank you for everyone who took part in the activities!

Merci et Vive la France!

Mrs K Harrington

Head of Modern Languages

COMMUNITY LANGUAGES

This term we have had the following Languages taught during Form Time

8 R- Gujarati 8 H- Tamil 8 N-Spanish 8 W-Tamil

I would like to congratulate all the girls who volunteered this year to teach their peers their home Languages. They really put a lot of work and effort in preparing the lessons, to make the language learning very stimulating. Please find below some comments written by the pupils themselves about their experience of Community Languages this year.

8W- The class have learnt Russian, Tamil and Bosnian this year.

Simren -. *I particularly enjoyed learning the alphabet in Tamil because it was very interesting to see the different shapes of the letters .*

Majura - *I particularly enjoyed the exercises and games we played .*

Maria- *I enjoyed how my classmates made activities that involved a certain area of the language we were learning .*

Mayo- *I enjoyed the presentations and interactive activities .*

Sivaathiga- *I enjoyed the conversation that we performed as a class .*



8N have learnt Tamil, Spanish and Gujarati

Nilany- *Our class prepared everything very well*

Abhirame- *I especially liked the Tamil lessons since the girls had a few tasty cultural snacks for us at the end of each lessons. I thought that Community Languages lessons really freshened up our mornings with a bit of fun!*

Riya: *I have had two different experiences of Community Languages this year. The first of which is learning. In the Autumn Term we learnt how to speak and write in Tamil. The other experience was teaching Gujarati to the class during the Spring Term. This was a wonderful experience as I learnt how patient you have to be when teaching new things to people and I could see the perspective of a teacher.*

Priya- *I thought learning another language was interesting, finding similarities to the language you speak yourself.*

Thamanna- *The girls doing the sessions obviously put a lot of work into their lessons and presentations to show the rest of the class. They did a brilliant job and I learnt a lot about the three languages .*

Bijal- *I found Community Languages very interesting and fun. It was a time to learn things about other members of the class, to find about their cultures and backgrounds.*

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

This has been an extremely active year for Design and Technology. Your daughters have been working really hard in Product Design and Food Studies have produced some delightful practical work and delicious dishes.

Year 7 have not only taken part in a nationwide sustainable design competition but have also been learning about injection moulding, and how linkages work. Some Year 7s have produced their own range of Party Accessories including invitations, masks and hats, whilst others have designed and made CAD/CAM key rings and pocket mirrors.

In Food Studies Yr7 cooked super soups and beautiful buns as well as finishing the first installment of the license to cook programme.

Year 8 have focused on meeting the needs of others this year. They have designed and made wooden storage/display racks for Charity organizations and have also learnt how to solder to produce a Steady Hand Game. We've had buzzers and lights popping on and off all over the workshop and some beautiful pieces have been created.

In food studies Yr8 designed and cooked batches of charity cookies, perfect pizzas and healthy family meals.

Year 9 have been researching Art Nouveau and Art Deco and went on to design and make jewellery prototypes for a mini business enterprise. They have been learning about casting process for manufacturing metal. Some work has been outstanding this year and some truly stunning items have been completed, do look out for just a few examples in the display case outside the main school office.

In food studies Yr9 used pressure cookers to produce economical and quick meals suitable for industrial manufacture.

Year 10 GCSE Graphics students have enjoyed designing posters promoting environmental responsibility, popup books and for their course work crash packaging.

The girls had a super time sampling sweets, chocolates, cosmetics and perfumes to ensure they produced just the perfect packaging.

GCSE Food students have produced a massive range of dishes and even cooked a buffet lunch for school VIP's.

Yr11 have risen magnificently to the challenge of being the first to undertake the new GCSE Graphics and Food courses. Do look out for examples of their work which include amazing architectural design models, point of sale display stands and packaging proposals. This group have also been the first to be able to take full advantage of the CAD/CAM facilities and we hope you agree that the laser cutter has revolutionized the quality of Yr 11 practical exam work.

It has been a busy but productive year and we hope that all pupils have enjoyed this year's D&T programme and are looking forward to their next installment.

Ms J Karavasili
Head of Design Technology



SPORTS NEWS



Yr 7 Athletics

2nd In The Borough Athletics Competition



Yr 7 Rounders

Congratulations to the Yr 7 team who came 1st in the Borough Rounders Tournament.



Yr 8 Athletics

4th In The Borough Athletics Competition



Yr 8 Rounders

5th in the Borough Rounders Tournament



Yr 9 Rounders
4th in the Borough Rounders Tournament



Yr 9 Athletics
Unfortunately the Year 10 competition was not competed due to heavy rain.



Yr 10 Rounders
2nd in the Borough Rounders Tournament



Yr 10 Athletics
Unfortunately the Year 10 competition was not competed due to heavy rain.

STAFF LEAVERS



Mrs Handley (Head of Italian) joined the school in September 1987 which means that when she retires this August she will have devoted 24 years to the students of Woodford. (A period which represents two thirds of the career of the average teacher.) In that time no fewer than 18 cohorts of students have completed their full seven years of secondary education, and the fact that so many students walking out through the gates for the last time have done so with an impressive command of the Italian language, a love of the country's culture and a life-long appreciation of the value of languages (including French) is directly attributable to the imagination and creativity which has characterised Mrs Handley's lessons.

Mr Elgie (French and ICT) has been teaching here in different capacities since 2003. Even girls who haven't been taught by him will know him from his enthusiastic participation, year after year, in activities such as the Christmas Pantomime. His memories of the school are enlivened by sartorial mishaps when impersonating Father Christmas. In the school's memories of him an operatic rendition as "Go-Compare" Man may well be the one to predominate. Woodford girls, he says, are a constant in the school, friendly and cheerful (*"once a Woodford Girl, always a Woodford girl"*).



Mr Kendall (Head of Social Sciences) joined the school in September 2000 and has been teaching Woodford Sixth Formers for over a decade. He will take with him fond memories of the place *"a nice school then as it is now"* and of its students (*"quiet in lessons and noisy out of them"*) and particularly colourful (and it seems, proud) memories of the year when, as Eminem, he won the staff karaoke. Being stopped by the police en route to his children's nursery afterwards, still in costume, he had some explaining to do. It seems he just didn't equate to their preconceptions of how a Woodford teacher would look!

Miss McDonagh (P.E) joined the school in 2006 and in the intervening years has motivated many a Woodford girl to go that little bit further and achieve a personal best. She has particularly vivid memories of House Drama competitions including performances of "We will Rock You" (Warner 2006) and "The Lion King" (2010). It's not surprising then that, asked for words of advice for colleagues joining in September she advocated getting involved in school events and enjoying all things Woodford: House Drama, School Birthday and so forth. Miss McDonagh leaves us to teach at a small special needs school in Islington where she hopes to have *"a big impact on the lives of these children"*.



Our thanks to the Year 7 Press Pack who took on the journalistic mission of interviewing our departing colleagues. Journalists were: **Inayah Ahmed, Stacey Ashraf, Meghna Desai, Magda Farghaly, Ayesha Geekiyanage Don, Khadija Hussain and Tatjana Mandil.**



Mrs Handley (Administrative Assistant) who joined the school in 2004, plays an invaluable role in supporting teaching and learning here: servicing the timetable, ensuring all classes have a teacher in front of them, no matter what, and assisting the transition of each new Year 7 cohort, *"I take great pleasure in watching girls, especially those who are a bit wibbly wobbly when they start, grow in confidence and flourish into talented young women."* Vivid memories include donning a stunning sari for a school fashion show and taking a part in the School Birthday Murder Mystery one year. She leaves us with some useful advice, *"when things don't quite go as planned, just remember to quote 'it's the Woodford Way'."*

Mr Townrow (Physics) joined the Science Department in 2008, choosing to return to the laboratory and to the hands-on teaching he loves after over a decade as a secondary school Headteacher. Lessons in his laboratory have a practical focus and his most colourful memories of Woodford are of experiments that went off the script, either culminating in a dramatic finale or conversely ending not so much with a bang as with a whimper. This, he says, will be his second attempt at retiring – he got bored when last he gave it a go! For our part we are hoping he won't be a stranger to Woodford next year.



Ms Lennard (Art and Food Technology technician) has been a creative and energetic member of the Art and Technology Department teams for the last two years. Over that time she's noticed some changes: girls getting taller and Woodford getting more technological. (*"We have e-mail now!"*) There's been a fire-fighting element to her role apparently (rescuing tray after tray of smouldering biscuits) but she's enjoyed the opportunities for mischief inherent in school life. (No further details available.) Ms Lennard, who has a degree in Product Design, leaves us to study pattern cutting in preparation for her next career move.

Mrs McCaffrey (Co-ordinator of Sixth Form Voluntary Placements) joined the School Office as an Accounts Assistant before taking on the role she has played for the last six years, co-ordinating the voluntary placements all our Year 12 students undertake in the local community. The success of this very valuable programme at Woodford is attributable in no small part to her communication with students, her liaison with voluntary organisations and to a high level of administrative efficiency.



Mr Turl (Physics) had an unusually wide and varied teaching career behind him when he joined the Woodford staff in 1989. Eight years teaching in Ghana and leading the Science Departments of a number of schools there gives him greater scope than most to compare the educational experiences of young people in different parts of the world. Asked whether Woodford has changed since he first joined it, he said the important things have stayed the same. His greatest satisfaction in teaching has been seeing students go on to university to study engineering. Next year, he hopes, will bring a change of pace; *"no need to join the rush hour, coffee in the garden at 11.00am, holidays unconstrained by term dates."*

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