

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH NEWSLETTER



Issue No 16 December 2015

Headlines

It comes as something of a shock to realise that over a quarter of a century has passed since, as a relatively young teacher, I left the wilds of South West Scotland to try my fortune teaching in the chic suburbs West of Paris. The grammar school that was my destination was a lively and cosmopolitan place. Students (of both genders and all sizes from kindergarten to Sixth Form) were each affiliated to one of nine national sections but followed the bulk of the curriculum together, in French. All students were bi-lingual, most were multi-lingual. And with 2000 of them (NafNaf rucksacks *de rigueur*) chattering their way across a sprawling campus the atmosphere at times was more that of an airport than of your average state school. It was an exciting place in which to learn or to teach, and it attracted a constant stream of overseas visitors, drawn to see for themselves what a genuinely international education looks like.

Operating in such an environment is so intense an experience that you find yourself in an almost permanent condition of sensory overload. Things even look and sound sharper, and there's something profoundly exhilarating about being surrounded by so many languages and cultures. Given all of which it's remarkable – or maybe it isn't so remarkable, but it's certainly a fact – that all that vividness fades from the memory once you return to your place of origin.

I say this because a week or so ago an experience came about which reminded me of those days in Paris and served as an illustration that anything that formative never really evaporates but merely becomes dormant, waiting to be reawakened by the right stimulus. The stimulus in this case was our involvement in the 12th Intel Education Summit, this year based in Canary Wharf. Our work as one of eight Digital School Houses having caught the organisers' attention, delegates from a dozen countries (spanning four continents) spent an afternoon at Woodford to watch the project in action.

Year 5 and 6 pupils from the John Bramston Primary School put their learning about input and output devices, sensors and software to the test, bringing their customised Monster Boxes to life with eyes flashing and ears wiggling. So engrossed were they in their task, and so enraptured by their successes, they scarcely heeded the thirty or so adults in the room, or noticed the number of languages and accents in use. The delegates that joined us included government ministers, headteachers, digital innovators and journalists. They'd travelled from as far apart as Canada and Lebanon, Morocco and Thailand. English was the medium of delivery but other languages quickly and naturally found their way into use: Italian visitors, for example, were delighted to discover a ten year old boy and a network manager switching effortlessly to a shared mother tongue.

A lot of planning and preparation underpinned the much commented upon professionalism of our team's delivery on the day. Perhaps the real measure of the venture's worth, however, was the comfortable informality with which delegates chatted with each other, with us and with the primary school children about what was going on. It's heartening to see such ease of communication and eagerness to share ideas and experiences. It's something that can happen perhaps more readily in education than in other fields. Competition, for the moment, is set aside in recognition that everyone actually wants the same thing for the children of the world: educational opportunity and all it makes possible. And at a time when in the wider world so much of the news is about conflict and discontent, it was rather wonderful to see the world's educationalists come together with such ease and shared purpose to enhance the lives and the learning of the next global generation.

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, opportunity and fulfilment.

Ms Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher



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Woodford County High School For Girls Celebrates 96th Birthday!

Woodford County High School for Girls celebrated its 96th birthday on Tuesday 29th September. This unique event has been celebrated for numerous years and still preserves important elements of Woodford culture within it. This connects the school and its pupils with their predecessors over the years. This traditional celebration was initially instigated by the school's first head mistress, Miss. Gordon.

Photo below: The traditional service taking place in 1900's in the main hall.

The day kick-starts with the parade. This involves the entire lower part of the school (years 7-11) and year 13 students. The students are arranged into neat lines and parade along the well-preserved front lawn of the school. Meanwhile the senior students parade banners representing each era and house. This process took place in a very orderly manner with younger students smartly dressed in school uniform which includes the signature blue and white striped shirt, meanwhile the senior students are formally dressed in black and white.

The parade then leads the students into the main assembly hall where the service is conducted. The ceremony consists of several songs and speeches made by members of staff including Ms. Pomeroy, the head teacher.

The service and parade both hold historical value which has been well preserved over many years including the school song: 'Forty Years On'.

Following the service and banner parade, each year group is assigned to an activity. This can range from bowling to



Photo above: The traditional service is still preserved and continued every year including the songs.

the recycling fashion show and from Murder Mystery to Thriftwood outdoor activity centre.

The event is described by Ms. Pomeroy as 'unique' and "balancing tradition on the one hand with innovation on the other". So the tradition is obvious in the banner parade and the service which uses elements which have been used for decades. Also the innovation: we do different things each year. So it's keeping tradition and innovation in balance and it's keeping formality and informality in balance because the parade and the service are our most formal events of the year. Girls in uniform have to wear



long sleeve shirts and not jumpers. We don't get any more formal than that but equally once we have done our duty and done those things properly and upheld the tradition then

the rest of the day is far less formal.'

Students can also get in the spirit of this important day by entering the cake competition in which they can bake a cake, whether it is a novelty cake or a school themed cake, and put it forward to the judging panel then have the joy of sharing it with classmates. This enables the school to come together and commemorate the day.

This event is also cherished by many members of the alumni, most commonly referred to as 'Old Girls', who reunite on the day and join the celebrations, giving them an opportunity to catch-up with friends and reminisce old memories.

Samantha 12 KH

Photo above:

The traditional banner parade being performed in the 1900's. This is another aspect of Woodford culture that is still preserved and practised every year.

Architects don't just design buildings

Suhaa Mahmood and Maria Rehman

Architecture isn't just about designing buildings. There's more to it.

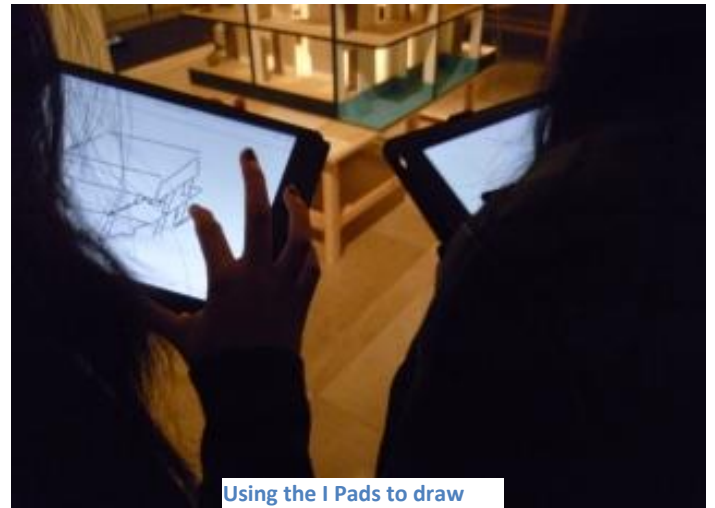
On Wednesday 2nd December, we (year 12 physics students) had the opportunity to visit the prestigious Royal Institute of British Architects, aka RIBA, in central London.



Using the I pads in the gallery to produce a plan

The programme of the day was definitely out of our comfort zone as, having not thought of architecture as a possible career choice before, we were thrown into a variety of very architectural challenges. Upon arrival, we met Fiona (a current architect working under RIBA) who talked us through some of the history of architecture, as well as the physics behind it. As intriguing as the history was, we were more intrigued by what came after it, namely RIBA's Palladianism exhibition. Now, tasked with uncovering the inspirations behind 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, we set out to unravel the exhibits around us. This we did quite successfully, and we were all fascinated to find that many Palladian style features exist in modern architecture today.

In the afternoon, after doing some drawings on high quality software (or rather the app 'Brushes Redux' on iPads), we went out to apply the knowledge we had gained, in seeing the newly redesigned campus for Central Saint Martins, an Art and Design college in London. There we also had the chance to meet both Tom and Tom, who were architects from Stanton Williams (the company that redesigned the campus). Needless to say, the work they had done was impressive and a 'walkthrough' of the different newly added elements provided an insight into the physics involved in some of the structures. A major point of attraction was the cantilever both inside and outside the building, whereby a lever mechanism that balances the forces allows you to create the impression of an overhanging/floating edge.



Using the I Pads to draw

The day we had, on a whole, was an amazing insight into the architectural world, and this was followed up by a workshop on Friday 11th December. The architects, along with Fiona, whom we had previously met before, joined us at Woodford to invent our own designs for the expansion of the school. Again, the activities were lively and engaging and everyone contributed a variety of design ideas. This was a great insight as, being 'architects', we now had the responsibility of coming up with a design that not only looked good, but was practical to pupils as well.

And it was this, then, that lead to the ultimate conclusion that architecture isn't just about designing buildings that you think look the best; it's about re-inventing an environment for all those who use it, in a way that is comfortable and integral to their lives.



Some of our work



Working on our designs for the school

PFA Funding for Food Technology Equipment



Miss Athman & Ms Rhodes
Food technology department

The department would like to say a big thank you to the PFA for all their hard work and generosity for funding new equipment to bring the food technology department into the 21st Century!

So far we have bought 3 Magimix food processors, Kitchen Aid and Kenwood stand mixers, Ice cream makers and new baking equipment that have enabled our KS4 GCSE food students to demonstrate a new much wider range of practical skills (check out the pictures) in the Yr11 GCSE students dishes.

We plan to spend the remainder of the money on new saucepans, new utensils and crockery for students to present GCSE dishes on. The whole school enjoying the benefit from this equipment from KS3/KS4 students to the Y12 students that complete cookery enrichment as well as the after school cookery clubs.



Miss Richardson



Remembrance Day 2015

This year WCHS marked Remembrance Day with a non-uniform day to raise funds for Haig Housing through their Coming Home Appeal. It seemed very fitting on such a day to help support the injured and disabled servicemen of today with a non-uniform day and cake sale.

Haig Housing is a charity that provides housing and adapted housing for injured and disabled servicemen and women. Recently they played a key part in the BBC's DIY SOS Home for Veterans scheme where a whole street in Manchester has been renovated to provide community support as well as housing. This was the focus of the school Remembrance Day assemblies and students were welcomed in by the delicate and exquisite porcelain tea light holders created in Year 12 Art Enrichment. Their light in an otherwise dark school hall created a fitting scene for such a poignant occasion.

For more information please see their website: <http://www.coming-home.org.uk/>

Many thanks to all pupils and parents for supporting the events in which we raised a staggering £869.55! Very special thanks also need to go to 8R – and their parents – for their incredible cakes.

OUR FIRST EVER STMC!

(Disclaimer: Though you may have noticed the several numbered questions, I can assure you that there is NO actual MATHS involved in READING this article. Please do continue.)

QUESTION 1

When n is a positive integer $n!$ is the product of all the integers from 1 to n . ($n!$ is read ' n factorial'.)

For example, $5! = 1 \times 2 \times 3 \times 4 \times 5 = 120$.

The expression

$$\frac{(7! + 8! + 9!)^2}{(4! + 5! + 6!)^2}$$

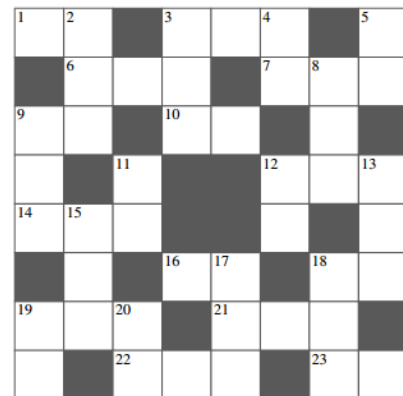
can be written in the form $2^a \times 3^b \times 5^c \times 7^d$.

What is the value of $a + b + c + d$?

So... what do you think?

If you're slightly freaked out right now and wondering 'Did they really just bring punctuation into maths?' (as if letters weren't bad enough) - then don't worry - we felt the same way. The first time we (me, Garthika, Nisnavai & Sanjana) first saw a STMC question (that's Senior Team Maths Challenge, nothing to be alarmed about as I will be using that a lot), it was... weird, to say the least. After getting into a routine of doing the same old trigonometry and algebra, this was definitely something new. Whereas in GCSE Maths, and even parts of A level, questions weren't too difficult because as soon as you saw something familiar, it was BOOM - I gotta factorise this quadratic or BOOM - let's do some trig, the STMC was nothing like that at all. The questions didn't just tell you to solve the simultaneous equations (actually, they did: see Group round question 9, 2010 Final) but rather told you something along the lines of ABRACADABRA (I'm not kidding: Group round question 5, 2010 Final). The first struggle was actually understanding what the question was asking you to do. Then, once phase one was complete you proceeded to phase two, that was: working out and answering the question. Now, this may seem quite 'out of your comfort zone' right now, and trust me it was for us too, but slowly we managed to get used to, and even enjoy, doing the maths. For us, taking part in the STMC Regional Heat was an amazing experience. Not only did we get to go to The Octagon (yes, it is as epic as it sounds), "strategise" whilst simultaneously snacking in Costa, miss lessons for the entire day, but we got to do all of that for the sake of the beautiful language that is mathematics (and yes, I do mean language; you might recall that we have letters and punctuation now too).

The day we had at The Octagon, at Queen Mary's, is definitely one I will remember. We had been practising for weeks; in free periods, lunchtimes, after school and even at home, all in the hope of going through to the National Final in 2016 (you had to come first in the Regional Heat to qualify). The first challenge we faced was 'The Group Round': **10 questions. 40 minutes. 6 points per question** (that's 60 points in total if you can't be bothered to do the maths) oh, and no method marks are awarded. We are seriously talking ALL or NOTHING. 6 or 0. Well, it wasn't that dramatic and we did quite well to get 7 out of 10. However, this clearly wasn't good enough as when the top 7 schools were announced, later on, we had failed to make the cut. As heartbreaking as this was, we weren't going to give up and, after a short break, moved on aiming for perfection in 'The Crossnumber Round', which looked a little something like this:



ACROSS

1. The value of $a + b$ when $(2 + \sqrt{2})(3 + \sqrt{8})$ is written in the form $a + b\sqrt{2}$ (2)
3. One quarter of the product of the square of 20 Down and the cube root of 18 Down (3)
6. The value of $(23 \text{ Across})^2 \times (20 \text{ Down})^{-1}$ (3)
7. The sum of 9 Down and 21 Across (3)
9. The positive solution of $\frac{x}{2} + \frac{2}{x+1} = \frac{17}{3}$ (2)
10. A prime number (2)
12. The value of y when x is 6 Across given that y is proportional to x and y is 6 Across when x is 23 Across (3)
14. The sum of the two prime numbers nearest to 23 Across (3)
16. The prime number between 10 and 20 that is not a solution to any of the other clues (2)
18. The mean of 1 Across, 5 Down and 18 Across (2)
19. The square of a prime number, not divisible by 31 (3)
21. One more than 9 Down (3)
22. Half of the sum of the interior angles in a polygon with 9 Across sides (3)
23. The coefficient of x^2 in the expansion of $(2 + 3x)^3$ (2)

Our first ever STMG continued...

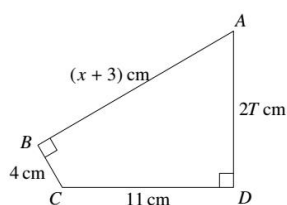
So, now we had to do a crossword with numbers instead of words but wait, there was a twist (this is the STMG after all); our team of four had to split into two pairs, where pair 1 was given the across clues and pair 2 the down clues. And, there's more, most questions depended on you having the answers to the other pair's clues, as in the answer to 6 across would require knowing 23 across and 20 down... complicated, yes, but we managed 57 out of 60 correct answers (each square/digit was worth 1 point) and for all those we didn't get right, we genuinely had to guess because there were multiple possibilities (yes, that is another twist and feature of 'The Crossnumber Round'- we call it 'sacrificing' a square). Once this round was done we felt slightly better, though we doubted coming first as the competition out there was tough, and so we rested during the lunch break whilst refuelling with **the top notch selection of muffins and brownies** available. The last - and most difficult - round was 'The Shuttle Round'. This consisted of four 'mini rounds/relays' where pair 1 and pair 2 each held two questions out of the total four. Pair 1 began by answering their question and once this was complete, they passed on the answer to pair 2 who had to use that answer in their question, in order to work it out. Then, pair 2 had to pass across their answer and pair 1 would answer their second question and finally it would come back to pair 2 to answer the final question, all in under 8 minutes (and let's not forget, there was a bonus for completing it within 6 minutes!). There were four of these 'mini rounds', with each pair swapping question numbers each time (pair 1 got questions 1 and 3 and pair 2, questions 2 and 4). Here's an example:

A1

Find the units digit of 83^3 .

Pass on *three less* than your answer.

T is the number you will receive.



Pass on the value of x .

This round did end pretty badly for the team and the score is something that I can't quite remember (let's call it selective memory) but the good news is, looking around at the competition, it seemed most teams were struggling just the same (yeah, it's not really good news...).

Overall, however, we came 9th out of a total 37 schools and though it wasn't anywhere near as good as we had hoped, we felt contented in coming in the Top Ten as Woodford's first ever STMG team.

So, to summarise, there were high points and low points (literally) but the day was awesome, all because of the wonder that is maths. Now, at this point, I would tell you how amazing maths is and really attempt to convince you that trigonometry apparently does have useful, real-life applications, but I won't do that. I think, that you already understand the greatness of this subject, so I'll just say that why I loved the STMG was this: Yes, the questions were hard and quite often we found ourselves just sitting there waiting for a revelation (which, by the way, usually came in the form of Mr Paine) but as soon as we solved a question- even just as soon as we knew HOW to proceed- the feeling was incredible; **it's great fun doing maths** by yourself but being a part of a team like this was unbelievable, and when it comes down to it that's all that matters. Not to mention, there's always next year.

Suhaa Mahmood 12KE

A2



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Help Me, I'm Normal

On 24th November in their PSHCE lesson Y10 and Y11 students attended a play made for young people dealing with the issue of Mental Health. This play was touring Redbridge schools and had been commissioned in response to requests for more education around this area from the Redbridge Youth Council.



One in four of us will have a mental health problem at some time in our lives and the numbers of young people experiencing these problems has risen dramatically over the last ten years with the latest research revealing that 1 in 10 will be affected at any one time.

Help Me, I'm Normal was a touring production for schools produced by the Redbridge Drama Centre and was aimed at fourteen to eighteen year old pupils. It explored a number of issues around mental health including self-harm, anxiety, depression, low self-esteem and eating disorders. The play also explored the effects of social media, exam pressure, body image and relationships on the mental health of young people, as well as the stigma and discrimination they can experience as a result.

The production had just three actors and very minimal set and was followed by a discussion led by the actors.



No Health without
Mental Health

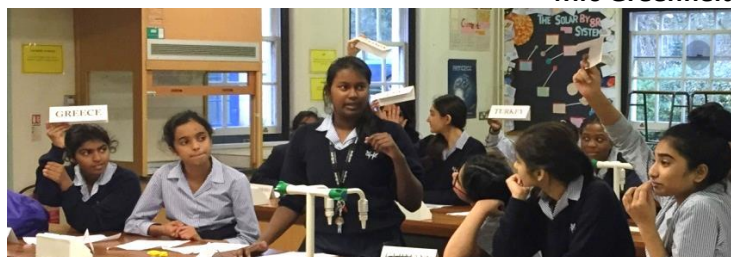
Mrs Greenfield

Model UN

Over two PSHCE lessons in December, Year 9 students all participated in Model UN debates on The Syrian Refugee Crisis. Students were each assigned a country to research before the debate and then represented that country. The debates were organised and chaired by A-Level Politics students led by Frida Petersen in Year 13. All the groups came up with resolutions to vote on.

Student evaluations indicated that they had learned about lots of different countries and their views and also about how the UN worked. Students also indicated that they enjoyed and learned from the opportunity to have to represent a certain view and persuade other of it.

Mrs Greenfield



Essex Ladies Tennis

A big well done to **Annali Olivelle (Year 9)** who was recently selected to represent Essex Ladies Tennis Team in the 2015 Winter County Cup. The competition was held this year in Essex at the Redbridge Sports and Leisure Centre. Annali won all 5 of her matches, including 3 singles and 2 doubles games, remaining unbeaten with Essex going on to win the league. Annali has also made history, being the youngest person to have been selected for the women's team. Well done Annali!

Miss Irwin, PE Department.

Miss Dhiman at the Northern Contemporary Craft Fair

This year Miss D was chosen to exhibit her work at Great Northern **Contemporary** Craft Fair in Manchester. It was a four day event that also included talks from designers and workshops. Miss D was approached by many galleries to exhibit her work. This was a great chance for Miss D to sell her work and also make new contacts. She was inspired by new designers and can't wait to share the knowledge with the art students at Woodford

Miss Dhiman, Art Department



Classics Visit to the Bay of Naples July 2015

The school visit to the Bay of Naples was definitely an experience to remember. Not only were we able to learn a great deal about the people who lived hundreds of years ago, but we also learnt more about ourselves: we had to live together and, more importantly, had to be independent.

Most mornings had an early start with four loud alarms going off simultaneously at 5am. Yet everyone was buzzing for the day ahead. We experienced such a fantastic range of activities, from guided tours (given by us the students) in the ancient city of Pompeii, to climbing up a steep hill to Tiberius' palace on the luxurious island of Capri in temperatures as high as 40 degrees centigrade! We also had a chance to see Herculaneum, this time accompanied by Paulo, our fantastic tour guide.

But the fun had only just begun: we began to do the trek that would end all treks –the hike up Mount Vesuvius! After being cheated of our hiking sticks and with an ever desperate need for water, we set off. Step by step, we climbed until we reached the top where we were greeted by the sight of an un-steamy volcano (all eyes were on Mr McClelland for that one) and magnets being sold at a 'bargain price'. Nevertheless, the view of the whole of Naples could not be more beautiful and was a wonder in itself.

Overall, the Bay of Naples was an 'optimus iter' (excellent journey), filled with selfie sticks, fresh food, laughter and memories. It will never be forgotten.

Students from 11W



Geography Department Autumn 2015

Once again the geography department has been busy organising and running a wide range of activities and visits for students across the school.

The highlight of the term was the department's **third** visit to Iceland. Just before the ½ term break, 19 students took the 3 hour flight and experienced the wonder of thundering waterfalls, spouting hot (*and smelly*) geysers, a walk up and around a 1000 year old volcano, crashing Atlantic Ocean waves and much, much more.



A huge thank you to all parents involved – the group had a fantastic time. We are already booked in for next year too with a group of 29 girls, so this is fast becoming an annual event for us.



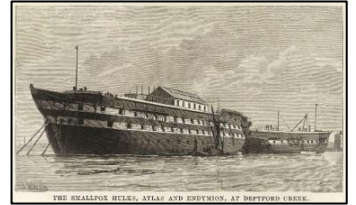
Apart from the chilly winds of Iceland, earlier in the term the department completed its regular visit, with Year 9, to Clacton-on-Sea

where we collected primary data relating to the impacts of tourism. For once, the sun shone (*a bit*) so we got a taste of a proper seaside day out!

At the beginning of November our Year 11 GCSE students spent a day in the town of Bishop's Stortford collecting data for their Controlled Assessment - the aim: to study the changing characteristics across an urban area. All of the groups worked brilliantly and have been working on their final pieces of work (25% of their GCSE) for the rest of this term.



During the past term the geography department has also been able to plan and organise some other 'outside of the classroom' opportunities. At the end of November a group of 30 students from across Year 9



LONDON
SCHOOL OF
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



took part in a cross-curricular workshop at the London Metropolitan Archives where a visiting PhD student from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine used archive material to deliver a day's worth of activities relating to the smallpox epidemic that spread across London in the 18th century.

TECTONIC HAZARDS AS/A2 GEOGRAPHY STUDENT CONFERENCE 2015

Finally, this year we were very fortunate to get tickets for the 'tectonic hazards conference' – an event held each year for A Level Geography students. The Year 13 class spent the day in Central London listening to a range of lectures relating to aspects of what they have been studying this term. It also gave them a valuable insight into the style of learning they should expect at University next year!

As well as all of the normal teaching going on, this year's Harvest Festival saw us find the time to raise an awareness of 'food banks' both nationally and locally. Some of the students' geography lessons were spent learning about the increasing use of food banks across the UK as well as discussing the issue of relative and absolute poverty. As a department, we are very proud to have organised a 'harvest' collection of items which was donated to the Redbridge Food Bank – thank you to all of those families who made a contribution.

As I said ... it's been a very busy term!



Mr Saxton and Miss Richardson

Spook Fest Review

The psychology department recently conducted a book club event organised in the library in the week leading up to the last half term and Halloween. This 'Spook Fest', chiefly coordinated with the help of Ms Liebeskind, our resident librarian and two Year 13 students, was aimed for all years to experience the impact of psychology on our every day lives, i.e. books! Ranging from titles such as *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by [Mark Haddon](#), for our younger readers, to the likes of *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath – giving an insight into the mind of a young woman of a similar age to many here at Woodford, and her troubles with depression. The event wanted to promote the vastness of the subject itself, and to show how many novels we wouldn't really perceive as psychological can have an inner meaning.

The event itself attracted, its safe to say, *hoards* of students; all flocking in at lunchtime to come and take part in the fun and games (I'm sure it had nothing to do with all the sweets and cakes). The library, covered in cobwebs and spiders and manned by three fearsome witches, was filled with a constant stream of activity, the games on display were small card games designed to be a focus for different aspects of psychology, for instance, how our personalities may correlate with our favourite objects, how the brain may react in subconscious ways that are outwardly displayed later. One of the activities was the renowned Rorschach Inkblot Test famously devised by a psychoanalyst of the same name – Rorschach believed each inkblot could reveal key aspects of your personality.



While the younger years were a little too interested in the treats, there were those who took a definitive interest in the subject – either Year 11's who were debating whether to take it for A-levels or Year 12's who might even be thinking as far ahead as university. We invited those most interested back again for a follow up event which would be more in depth as to what the subject has to offer and how they can take it further in education. The whole occasion was indeed deemed a success, at the expense of the tidiness of the library, and seemed to have captured the attention of many within the school in our subject.

Radia Mustafa Psychology
A level student Y13

Christmas at Woodford

A long standing, traditional duty of the Woodford County High School Silver Badges is to decorate our Christmas Trees each year. Woodford has two trees at Christmas, one in the Entrance Hall and one in the Assembly Hall. Each has been strikingly ordained with ornaments, tinsel and a thousand lights! And in the Entrance Hall it seems that Father Christmas has dropped some gifts down our chimneys. Here are this year's beautiful additions to our wonderful building for the festive period.



Hacking into the School website and 3D Visual Reality all possible at the Excel Skills London Convention

My visit to the Skills London Event at the ExCel was an opportunity to discover careers through interactive, inspirational activities and demonstrations that allowed me to bridge the gap between what I enjoy doing and what I could potentially do as a career.

As a teenage girl, who will probably stress over exams and various pieces of homework from time to time, I do have those rare moments where I can just sit back and enjoy playing and experimenting with the newest technologies available. Sometimes I'm lucky enough to have borrowed them from a cousin or to have had one of my uncles purchase one, but usually I'm just on YouTube admiring and wishing to have a go. But, at the event, I and a few of my friends were amazed to have spotted an exhibition offering an experience with the awesome Samsung Gear VR headset, a mobile computer stimulated device that essentially allowed a user to watch a 3D visual reality with a 360° view of any chosen video or game. In my case, I was exhilarated to have viewed a scene from 'Jurassic Park' in which I was nearly scared half to death by the sheer size of the Diplodocus towering over me while it devoured the leaves above my head. We were so thrilled by the experience that we were encouraged to sign up to the 'Digital Futures' newsfeed so that we could be updated on career opportunities for young people interested in new technology.

At the event we were also fortunate enough to have come across the 'STEMettes', who were a group of inspirational women, encouraging the next generation of young girls to join the ranks in a careers sector that encompasses Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. At the exhibition we were given the chance to use 'X-Ray technology' to, wait for it... hack into the school website! Scandalous as it may seem, we were able to use code to 'edit' a few pages of WCHS' website to showcase some, should I say, unmentionable new features. Jokes aside, we were actually able to make a few adjustments whilst playing with the colour schemes and adding creative animations to the website. The experience really did open our eyes to the fantastic possibilities the working world offered to young girls aspiring to work for careers relating to STEM.

Ultimately, we left the Skills London Convention inspired and ready to go further and explore what else the world of work has to offer young girls aspiring to become successes.

Nabihah Rahman

MFL Magazine – Winter Edition 2015



Please have a look at the quick read edition of the Winter languages magazine, the *Linguist* in the MFL section of Fronter.

Any budding writers for next term's publication should speak to their languages teacher.

Miss Heath, MFL Department

Year 13 German Class visit KCL

On the 10th November 2015, the A2 German class had the opportunity to attend a private seminar with a German lecturer at King's College London. It allowed us to gain a much deeper analysis of the poems we had been studying in lessons, one of which was called 'Todesfuge' By Paul Celan. This is one of Celan's most famous poem and is regarded as a compelling description of the horror and death in the concentration camps. Discussing this poem with an expert on German literature evoked new and interesting ideas, encouraging us to understand the piece from different perspectives and extracting deeper meanings, from the cleverly depicted imagery and structural patterns which can be difficult to decipher at first. Through this experience we were able to appreciate the importance of discussing major historical events such as the Holocaust, and sharing personal experiences with the world through the art of language. We were also able to speak to one of the German students there, informing us of the many programmes available for German students and the benefits this can bring. He provided us with an insight into the life of a student at King's College and the resources that the German department can offer, which was particularly beneficial the students in our class who wish to study German further at university level.

Agana Gnanakuruparan 13JMC

A festive start to the Christmas season

Woodford's annual Christmas concert is, for many, the first opportunity to sing carols, enjoy seasonal readings and gaze at the lit tree while enjoying festive music – and this year's was no exception.

The newly-expanded Big Band opened the concert with an exciting rendition of James Brown's 'I Got You', before the first half continued on a musical journey through Strauss (the Brass Band's 'Blue Danube Waltz') and Saint-Saens (the Orchestra's 'Danse Macabre', with solo violin expertly played by leader Hanna Procter) to film music from Bollywood composer A.R. Rahman (the Carnatic Ensemble's 'Inodhu nee Irundhaal', directed by Year 10 student Geerthiya Shanmugaratnam) and Hans Zimmer (WCHS Singers' 'Circle of Life'). A further highlight was the first performance by this year's Year 8 Brass Band, currently featuring students of 8H and 8N on trumpet, baritone and trombone, who have been learning the instruments as part of a whole-class brass project this term.



The second half saw the festive spirit in full swing, opening with Simran Kambo's atmospheric solo on the first verse of 'Once In Royal David's City', before performances by the Senior Choir and Staff Choir cemented the Christmas mood. Readings of poems and stories by students from all four houses bookended further carols and musical performances – but it was the grand finale that really stole the show, with nearly 200 students performing together on 'It's Christmas Time' – a song composed by our very own Mr Mitchell for the occasion. In addition to the Big Band, Orchestra and Junior Band accompanying singers from both school choirs, the piece included a raucous samba break performed by students from 8R, as well as further brass interjections from 8H and 8N.

The evening was exciting and enjoyable – and the audience left in high spirits and full of Christmas cheer.

Miss Hasler, Head of Music

PFA-funded instruments bring new life to Music lessons



The Music department was fortunate this term to receive a grant of £5000, raised by the Parents' and Friends' Association, to fund the purchase of new instruments and equipment for use in Key Stage 3 Music lessons. The money was spent on a wide variety of instruments, all of which have been put to good use already this term, with Year 8 benefiting from a set of caixas, repeniques and timbas for Samba drumming, Year 7 enjoying a renewed stock of classroom percussion (tambourines, cabasas, claves and so on) for a graphic score composition project, and Year 9 discovering polymeter by playing Led Zeppelin songs on new glockenspiels and xylophones. Not to mention the new guitars, ukuleles, drum sticks and even recording equipment to make the teachers' lives easier... the list goes on!

The Music department is very grateful to the PFA for their support and to all those who helped raise the funds for the new instruments – they've made a huge difference to lessons already, and will no doubt continue to do so for years to come.



**Miss Hasler,
Head of Music**

House Drama – A November Highlight

November: “the month of the drowned dog”.
(Ted Hughes)

With the onset of meteorological winter, days shorten and to-do lists lengthen. But lest we should dwell overlong on the drizzle and gloom, the penultimate month of the year brings with it the whizz and bang of bonfire night, the colour and wonder of Diwali and, here at Woodford, the buzz and business that is House Drama.

Unobtrusively at first, teams of girls start their preparations. Auditions are accomplished, cast lists posted, rehearsal schedules established. Activity and noise levels build and we find we are holding meetings against a backdrop of big choral numbers and instinctively checking the seats we sit on for evidence of wet paint. The poster-bedecked corridor is cleared of step ladders only seconds before our panel of judges heads for the hall. An edge of seat (or seat of the pants) endeavour, if ever there was one. But we love it.

Highams with their production of “Aladdin” transported us to the heat and hustle of a Middle Eastern Souk. Against a back drop of handcrafted fruits, lowly boy meets Sultan’s daughter and outwits the royal vizier to win her hand. His cause is aided by a personable genie (in this production larger than life and improbably blue). Woodford girls know the value of friendship and were audibly pleased to see the genie make good on his promise “*You ain’t never had a friend like me*”. A magic carpet ride over rooftops was just one of the staging challenges presented but imagination, buoyant singing and skilful orchestration helped us suspend disbelief and see them airborne contemplating that “*whole new world*”.

Newton transported us to 19th Century Paris for a musical rendition of Victor Hugo’s “Hunchback of Notre Dame”. The isolation of Quasimodo’s bell tower and his lofty perspective over Paris was convincingly recreated from the Woodford stage. The ashen gargoyles that are his only company came engagingly to life in this production in a reversal of our usual understanding of musical statues. Strong choral ensembles (“*The Bells of Notre Dame*”) and confident solos (“*God help the Outcasts*”) animated the score. An apology for the coincidence of their production with the atrocities in Paris was considerate but really not necessary – the show went on, as indeed life must go on, celebrating all that’s positive and creative in human endeavour.



Repton broke the House Drama mould this year with their production of “We Will Rock You”. Eccentricity in the plot of this curious musical is explained by its being constructed unashamedly as a vehicle to showcase the 1980s hits of Queen. A story board moved forward song title by song title is bound to take some odd twists and turns. It being set in a dystopian future some time after “*the music died*” affords it some liberty in this regard. Strong rhythm and exhilarating guitar riffs gave the production pace and energy, particularly at the stronger evening performance. For the more mature audience members the production was an engaging blast from the past, for younger viewers no doubt a refreshing shift in pace and tone.

Warner caught their audience’s attention from the start. The rigidity and anonymity of orphanage life was established in an instant as the orphans were drummed single file into their cheerless dining hall. The musical arrangement of this production was as skilful as it was unusual and supported its musicians and cast well. Oliver’s vocal strength, the Artful Dodger’s lively stage presence and the menacing posture of Bill Sykes made for effective story-telling. The variety of tone and melody so characteristic of Lionel Bart’s musical was beautifully evident in a lyrical rendition of the flower girl’s song (“*Who will buy this wonderful morning?*”).

Judging this year’s competition was no easy task. It would be fair to say all bets were off. But it was the judges we charged with reaching a decision and their choice this year went with Highams and their production of “Aladdin”. Congratulations are due to Gissonna and Stephanie (House Captains) and to Alexandra for her musical direction of the piece.

Ms Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher

A week in the life of a musician:

Inova, Year 12

Performing with internationally renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti



Nicola Benedetti is a world class violinist, and former winner of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition as well as many other awards. She is certainly a musician I have admired for years. On the 2nd October, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Nicola Benedetti String workshop for advanced string players in Year 11 and 12, at the Royal Albert Hall.

The workshop began with Nicola playing a quick excerpt from a piece which she said she hadn't worked on in a while, but none of us noticed - we were all captivated by her stunning performance. We received tips on how to improve certain playing techniques, such as vibrato, before moving on to working through two movements Vivaldi's 'Autumn' from *The Four Seasons*. This was such a liberating experience as she really helped us all to let loose and trust our technique; to produce a free and exciting sound to capture and communicate the mood to the audience, rather than trying to make everything sound too perfect and safe. She also allowed us to try her very expensive Baroque bow, which I was almost too scared to touch!

The session closed with a performance - considering we only had a few hours to practise the pieces together, I think we did pretty good job. It was truly an amazing experience to get to perform alongside such a brilliant, awe-inspiring violinist - one that I will never forget.

Inova Year 12



Playing for royalty at Buckingham Palace

A few days later, I had the chance to play at one of the greatest venues ever, Buckingham Palace, as the first violinist in a string quartet for a Duke of Edinburgh Event. It took a bit of getting used to having to be escorted everywhere - even to the bathroom (which had a carpeted floor!). As you can imagine everything was beautifully gilded, with soft red furnishings and many great pieces of art hanging along the walls.

After a guided tour, we set up to perform our pieces: music which included Mozart's *"Eine kleine Nachtmusik"* and Handel's *"Arrival of the Queen of Sheba"*, as well as some more modern pieces by jazz composer Gershwin. We played for just over 2 hours, pausing during the speeches and certificate presentations. During one of the breaks, we were offered a selection of drinks, served in fancy "ER"-inscribed glasses, by one of the butlers. At the end we were introduced to HRH Prince Edward, who thanked us for playing, and we obviously thanked him fervently in return for the opportunity.

All in all, it was certainly an eventful week and a great privilege to be able to take part in these performances.

Inova Year 12

Sixth Form Knitting Group support 'The Innocent Big Knit'

Members of the Sixth Form Knitting Enrichment group have spent this half term taking part in the Innocent Smoothies 'Big Knit' campaign. Each year, from January onwards, small bottles of Innocent smoothies are sold wearing knitted hats, with donations for each bottle sold being given to Age UK. The knitting group made 15 hats in total - look out for them adorning bottles in shops near you next year!



Miss Hasler

October Recital Evening

On Thursday the 22nd of October, Woodford hosted its latest Recital Evening - an opportunity for girls to showcase their talent, whether it was singing or playing an instrument. The evening was filled with a large variety of music, from a cover of 'Titanium' to Bach's classic 'Violin Concerto no. 1'.

The first half of the evening consisted of students of all years who take an interest in music, while the second half consisted of GCSE music students in year 11 presenting a piece that will contribute to their coursework. On the whole this helped develop the confidence of young musicians and singers and gave them an opportunity to step into the spotlight and present their love for music.

There was positive feedback from senior members of staff:

'It was good to see in the first half that we had a combination of very young girls and older girls, which was great... Some of the girls were feeling very nervous but most of them got through their performance without a hitch. Even those who encountered problems still carried on. So it was a very enjoyable evening'

- Mr Jenkins, Deputy Head Teacher

'Everyone sang and played beautifully. Girls were very supportive of each other so that made it a very warm evening everybody celebrated each other's performances.'

- Ms Pomeroy, Head Teacher

Members of the audience also enjoyed this evening and showed an incredible amount of support for everyone on stage, with one member of the audience saying:

'The performances were amazing! I have been to some paid concerts and haven't heard the quality of music like today. Absolutely extraordinary.'

Samantha, 12KH

Written as part of Young Reporter's Project



PARADOX- Woodford's very own alternative band

Year 10 band, Paradox, consisting of Shanuja (vocals), Tahreem (vocals), Erin (vocals and ukulele), Divya (guitar) and Vidya (drums) have represented not only Woodford but also the Borough of Redbridge in contests and performances over the last year.

With the announcement of Woodford's first Battle of the Bands earlier this year, we decided to perform as a group of friends, never realising how far we would go into the future. 'Paradox' was chosen as our name for no other reason than it sounded 'cool' (and much better than our alternative, 'Rubber Band'). Building on our work in Music lessons, we taught ourselves how to play, perform and personalise 'Flaws' (Bastille) and 'Riptide' (Vance Joy) for the competition. The Battle of the Bands was our first experience of performing and we could not get enough. And so, we began writing our own songs and performing covers of our favourite songs on Busking Fridays and at school recitals.

We were soon given the opportunity to represent Redbridge in the G2M East London Battle of the Bands by our Music Department. After the tough audition process (and lengthy wait) we were chosen to take part in the competition against 6 other bands from across East London. The contest was broadcast online to an international audience with 2 winners chosen by a public and judges' vote. We came second in the public vote. The whole process was an incredible experience and gave us great confidence as a band.

More recently we played at the Jack Petchey Awards in Ilford Town Hall. After a quick sound-check, we were ready to open the ceremony. This performance was our biggest yet, with a live audience of over 500 people.

Paradox has been an unexpected yet extraordinary journey. We never would have thought we could ever achieve so much as a group of musical novices and we hope to continue the journey into the future. We cannot thank Ms Hasler and the Music Department enough for supporting us and giving us so many opportunities in the past year.



'Paradox' perform at the G2M Band Challenge, Paradox, 10W

St. John's Ambulance Young Achiever Reception at Buckingham Palace

On Thursday 5th November, I was lucky enough to be invited to the St John's Ambulance Young Achiever Reception at Buckingham Palace; where I had the honour of meeting Princess Anne for the second time.



The day started with a briefing at the Order of St. John, but we were soon on our way to the Palace. After a lengthy security check, we were finally allowed into the Palace. Everything about Buckingham Palace was grand, from the plush ruby red carpets to the elaborately illustrated portraits. We were led into an exceptionally beautiful room where we were to meet Princess Anne.

Filled with anticipation, we nervously awaited the arrival of her Royal Highness, after what seemed like an eternity she came towards our group. Following a quick introduction, Princess Anne praised each of us for our work on the online interactive scrapbook, which is currently on display at the Order of St John Museum London. She briefly talked to us about the history of World War One and Two and expressed her delight at meeting such helpful young people. Then, just like that, our time with Princess Anne was over.

We spent the rest of the afternoon being waited on by the elegant staff of Buckingham palace; we were served a delicious afternoon tea!

This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life and I am grateful that all my hard work as sergeant for St John's Ambulance has paid off this year.



Shankari 11R

Jack Petchey Awards 2015



Thursday 3rd December marked the evening of the Redbridge Jack Petchey Awards, I once again proudly made my way to Redbridge Town Hall to celebrate the success of students across the borough and support the Woodford winners.

The stage was set...lights, camera and, after a very dramatic x-factor style countdown to start the evening , action. Our very own 'Paradox' opened the show with 'Sun'. Shanuja, Erin, Divya and Vidya from 10W put in another great performance, fresh from their Hackney Live success.

In the time that followed each school's awards winners were congratulated and celebrated as they took to the stage to collect their awards and have their achievements read aloud. Woodford were in the first block of winners; 6 of last years 9 winners were able to attend.

I take this opportunity to once again offer my congratulations to all the Award winners for 2014-15, you should be very proud of your achievements!



Miss Irwin, Jack Petchey Co-Ordinator

Year 7 sleepover!



chocolate artichoke roll for desert.

There were so many different films to choose from; we ended up watching 'Despicable me' and 'Tangled'! It was so much fun! We stayed up giggling and chatting.

At the end of the night when it was time to go to sleep the ground looked like a jig-saw puzzle, made out of blankets and sleeping bags! There was a whopping 38 students in total at the sleepover in the 6th form block!

I managed to get an interview with Zoe (who went to the sleepover) and she said "The sleepover was very fun and she would like to go again."

I'm sure everyone who went to the sleepover would love to thank Miss Irwin, Miss Heath and all the PFA who gave up their time to host a sleepover for us new Woodford girls.



Reese 7N

During the fun filled evening we played lots of games including spectrum lines, splat and beans. We had a most delicious dinner of Dominos pizza and a yummy

Be Bright Be Seen Design Competition



This Autumn Redbridge ran a road safety design competition aiming to highlight the dangers of the roads in the dark and encourage the use of reflective/fluorescent safety items. Four KS3 students entered the Be Bright Be Seen competition, submitting some excellent entries for the design brief. There was tough competition with hundreds of entries for the road safety team to judge. Unfortunately none of our entries were selected to be printed up on to sweatshirts but all the students received a reflective key ring from the road safety team. Well done to Samia Rashid 7R, Niroosika Kesavan, Hemmy Ranjith 8H and Avneet Kaur Hunjan-Kalsi 8H.

Miss Irwin & Miss Athman

2016 Redbridge Road Safety Calendar Competition

Congratulations to Avneet Kaur Hunjan-Kalsi 8H and Jashmiga Mohan 8H for their successful entries in the Road Safety Calendar Competition!! We can't wait to see your designs in print!!

[WCHS winning entries below](#)

Jashmiga Mohan 8H



Avneet Kaur Hunjan-Kalsi 8H



School Birthday; Y11 head to Thriftwood...

The British weather was kind to us this School Birthday, so no one opted for wellies as our tutor suggested for our trip to the great outdoors. This proved to be a good decision as our group's first activity, rock climbing, would have been difficult in such awkward footwear. Those of us less experienced with adventurous activities quickly became accustomed to the feeling of helmets and harnesses, but perhaps less so to the imaginative nicknames our instructor gave us.



Our next activity, rifle shooting, was equally enjoyable. Once we had all figured out how to work the rifles and shots were fired (not at each other), we discovered with shock and slight fright who among us had a good eye for the target.

Our final activity was the sky high walk, probably our toughest one. While most of us weren't brave enough to let go of

the rope, our favourite part was watching Ms Karavasili, always eager to get involved, drop from the top koala-style.

We were never too far from other groups, so we could always watch in anticipation as pairs climbed an ever-growing crate stack, or laugh as someone who took a tumble whilst water zorbing, or cheer as someone miraculously reached the top of Jacob's Ladder single-handedly!

We finished the day with a communal lunch by the lake before returning to Woodford, recounting our experiences of the day to each other.

Many thanks to Miss Irwin for organising the day and to all the staff who came along to support us and made the day so enjoyable.

Zaynab Ahmed 11H



Leadership opportunities at Woodford County High School

September 2015 marked the launch of several new initiatives to promote student leadership at Woodford County High School among KS3 & 4 Students. Below is some information about some of the schemes that have started...keep an eye out for more things you can get involved in and updates on those that are already underway...



Back in June we were visited by Rita, a representative from 'Free the Children' who delivered an assembly about the work of the charity and led a workshop for the 32 students from Year 7-10. In October Miss Athman and I began the search for Woodford Free the Children Ambassadors. The applications came flooding in and after much deliberation we selected 54 students. Our campaign kicked off in December- WE ARE Rafiki. The first campaign group had to research the cause-Rafiki is Swahili for friend, each bracelet sold provides a source of alternative income for the maker back in Kenya. After pitching to each from group the group managed to secure 117 sales, raising £585 for our first Free the Children campaign! Congratulations to all the students involved and many thanks to those who supported them by buying a Rafiki and making a difference. Keep a look out for the next campaign in January and see how you can show your support.

Miss Irwin



Leadership opportunities at Woodford County High School *(continued)*



Fresh from the summer break September saw students applying to become Childnet Digital Leaders. The students below were successful in their applications and are now undertaking online modules to learn more about the pros and cons of the digital world. They have a weekly meeting to complete the module work and follow it up with a team discussion to decide how best to disseminate the information to staff and students at Woodford. They have a whole host of projects in the pipeline and look forward to sharing the results of all their hard work with you in the coming months.

Woodford Childnet Digital Leaders:

Maryum Jahangir 7R
Avneet Maur Hunjan-Kalsi 8H
Haifa Nisar Bhatti 8R
Hanisha Kaur Bhatia 8R
Humna Khan 8R
Heeba Mirza 8R
Mehala Mithnan 9R
Mahnoor Malik 10N
Artighni Ghosh 10R
Noor Mahmood 10R
Natasha Atam 13SDO
Nivetha Ledchumikanthan 13JH

Miss Irwin
Miss Athman
Ms Liebeskind

Fearless Futures

In December twelve Year 10 students began an 8 week programme called Fearless Futures. "Fearless Futures is a movement of fearless young women's leadership. The programme aims to empower groups of girls and young women in schools to understand and overcome individual and societal barriers to equality in the workplace and world". The 12 students involved will spend some time researching and debating material and developing as a group in preparation to lead a session for younger students in the New Year. Watch this space for feedback on their session...



GCSEpod...the revision resource for audio-visual learners!



You may remember reading previously that Woodford has subscribed to GCSEpod, a new innovative revision tool that students can

access in school, at home and on the go via a smart phone. GCSEpod is a resource students can use to support their learning and revision; it breaks subjects down into manageable chunks, using audio and visual effects to bring information to life in over 3500 different 3-5 minute podcasts. GCSEpod has been very well received by students; since its launch just before Easter 2015.

All students in Year 10 and 11 should have signed up by going to www.gcsepod.com. If it is their first visit they will need to click on the turquoise tab that says 'NEW HERE? GET STARTED', select pupil, and complete the information. They will then need to set up their own username and password (they should make a note of this somewhere) and then they are ready to go. So far students have streamed 11849 podcasts and downloaded a further 3477!! New material is published on the site regularly. If you would like to know how you can support your daughter please look at the following page: <https://www.gcsepod.com/parents/> I hope your daughter finds this resource helpful as she prepares for her GCSE exams.

Miss Irwin



Thursday 19th November 2015



A group of approximately 50 eager and digitally minded Year 9 girls participated in the British Interactive Media Association's (BIMA) Digital-day on Thursday

19th November 2015. 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 3 challenges to design their very own piece of technology.

The day was hosted by We Are Experience, a digital design and marketing company that has worked on digital innovations for various organisations – those of which have included Transport for London, The Metropolitan Police and Cineworld. The team of 5 had a blast working with our girls to bring out theory creative, innovative and whacky ideas whilst working on the challenges set by events sponsors, Vodafone, Sony Music and Standard Life. The hosts passed on their expertise and skills through exploring real life scenarios and how these are mapped into technological inventions through problem solving, design and computational thinking. It was a day full of imagination and not to mention a little competition!

The girls performed wonderfully by drawing upon all of their Computing skills and knowledge to put together sophisticated and ingenious solutions to the problems they were given. As digital natives they were efficient in realising what was trending...and what should be next to come in the line of technology for their scenarios.



It was a pleasure to see all of these skills in play.

It was clear that the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves throughout the event and were pleased with the end product that they so creatively put together- and now we await the announcement of the competition winner from the organisers....

Mrs Chadee
Head of Computing



Alumni News: Girls Can Code

In September one of our alumni, Neelam Choudhury, participated in a two part BBC Three Programme entitled "Girls Can Code", a documentary in which we were to see "five girls

unleash the digital guru within themselves" (BBCOnline).

Radio 1's Alice Levine challenged the girls to take on the boys of the male-dominated digital world.

The premise was that the girls, all in their late teens or early twenties and all enthusiastic users of Smart Phones and other 21st century technology, given an insight into the career opportunities in this rapidly growing field, could develop an ambition to design and develop the next generation of digital software. Women are under-represented in computer programming as indeed they are in other areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). "Half of all gamers are women - but only 4 per cent code them. Only seven of the richest 100 tech billionaires are women." (BBC)

The programme's aim, therefore, was a noble one. Its title didn't tell us anything we don't, in a girls' school, already know – but it is a great deal catchier than the synopsis of intent attempted above.

Opening footage established the centrality of the smart phone in the lives of our 5 protagonists. Programme makers then drew on the influence of the BBC to open a series of doors for the 5 girls. They met women driving development in a number of contexts before being challenged themselves first to design a new computer game and secondly to pitch their own digital solution to an unmet need they'd identified.

Girls coding didn't feature heavily in either episode but arguably it's not in itself an activity that makes for compelling viewing. Rather the participants' eyes were opened to the wide ranging application of programming and the satisfaction to be had in harnessing technology to solve a problem or to break new ground. Neelam was certainly inspired, describing making the episodes as 'honestly one of the best experiences I've ever had'

Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher



**Mrs Chadee,
Computing
Department**

Pupils from John Bramston school did an amazing job of learning various skills in the theory workshop and creating the Monster boxes that were the centre piece of the whole event ... and the anticipation of waiting to see whether the Galileo circuits would operate them successfully left everyone on tenterhooks until the final moment when we finally had all monster box eyes and ears flashing and moving! An “all-eyes-lit-up” moment.



Wednesday 2nd December 2015 marked a busy day at Woodford with guests from approximately 12 different countries visiting us to observe a showcase Digital Schoolhouse (DSH) workshop. As part of a 2 day conference taking place in various venues across London, Woodford's DSH was invited to participate in the event by demonstrating, with the help of pupils from John Bramston Primary School, how creative we could be with teaching Computing using Intel's Galileo device.

The Intel educational summit is a non-commercial event by invitation only and is aimed at Education stakeholders across the board from the public and private sphere. It aims to debate current challenges and visions in order to promote a successful 21st Century learning and teaching experience. We were privileged to have been invited to showcase our computing expertise to the international delegates and to professionals from industry such as Microsoft, Lenovo and HP.

The lead up to the event, (although exhausting!) was quite an exciting one! From attending meetings on Level 39 of Canary Wharf building, working with INTEL experts, experimenting with the Galileo through creating sensor circuits, running lead-up workshops with John Bramston - to the final touches of organising the reception of the visitors for the day ... everyone seemed to be involved which helped us to make the day the success that it was.

The atmosphere on the day was pleasant and full of positive vibes from both adults and children which fostered the interaction between everyone during various points of the workshop delivery, making it a productive and hands on learning experience for all. It was a wonderful occasion for us to be able to pass on our teaching skills in Computing and for the primary school children to demonstrate their agile ability to learn and understand new Computing skills in such a short space of time. The feedback from the INTEL host was also full of praise and appreciation for the ideas that the workshop had generated and for the discussions taking place between delegates about which parts of the workshop would work well in Computing lessons in their home countries.





Digital Schoolhouse founder Mark Dorling was also present and was delighted at how the DSH project had flourished and at how much work and dedication had gone into promoting Computing and supporting primary schools in delivering the Key Stage 2 Computing curriculum – and also that the play-based model was now being recognised in other countries.

So all in all a very constructive and motivating experience for everyone involved!

Articles and further information on the event can be found on the following links:

Intel: <https://summit.intel.co.uk/video.html>

Wanstead and Woodford Guardian:

John Bramston Primary School:

<http://johnbramstonschool.blogspot.co.uk/2015/12/digital-leaders-and-intel-galileo.html>

John Bramston Primary School:

<http://johnbramstonschool.blogspot.co.uk/2015/12/digital-leaders-and-intel-galileo.html>



Enabling students to keep themselves safe

Students' safety and well-being is of paramount importance both to parents and to us in school. We work hard, therefore, to ensure students have the knowledge, the confidence and the moral courage to make wise decisions and to keep themselves and each other safe.

A variety of approaches is taken to empowering students in this regard. Students themselves (through their school council) asked for training in self-defence and this has been provided through the after school club. PSCE activities are planned carefully to cover age appropriate issues. We have on several occasions brought theatre in education projects into school. Last year "Chelsea's Choice" for example, brought attention to the many guises of sexual exploitation. This year "Help me, I'm normal!" explored mental health issues among teenagers. We've also worked with leading charities to source expertise on areas such as forced marriage (Aneeta Prem from *Freedom Charity*) and extremism (Sajda Mughal of the *Jan Trust*). Key Stage 4 classes have participated in balanced and thought-provoking workshops with both organisations.

Social media continues to play what - to an adult - appears a disproportionate role in young lives. Those who would prey on children exploit this dependency making e-safety a vital component of safeguarding provision in school. We continue actively to teach girls to be safe on-line and we encourage parents to attend training in school or to make use of the short guidance videos available in the *Frontier Parents' Room*.

Strong partnership between parents and school is a vital component of safeguarding. Please don't hesitate to alert us to any concerns. Children have the right to be kept safe from harm. Together we will work to keep them so.

Ms Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher



A Day with Stemettes

Visiting Software

Ms Pervaiz, Computing Department

Introduction

On Wednesday 25th November a group of ten year 8 girls were privileged to be invited to the Software workshop held in the company's offices in Highgate, North London. Software is a bespoke Software developing company. This event is one of many projects that belong to Stemettes - an organization that works with distinguished companies to inspire the women of the next generation to identify different career opportunities in STEM as there is a lack of women working in these industries.

Software is a company that provides quality custom software to its clients through software development, mobile development, consultancy and support. Their software solutions has helped well-known companies such as the BBC create a website for BBC Music "introducing" an initiative which broke new technical ground and reduced their support burden tenfold. Software are now a leading small software company in the UK. There are a proportionate number of women working in Software who are multi-talented and full of energy.

Woodford County High School for Girls

The girls had the opportunity to explore the subject through spending the day with women at Software, building their own mobile app, presenting their work in front of a panel of judges and receiving prizes and feedback. The students also heard, from the women who are managing some of Software's projects. They talked about their journeys into technology and the girls had a chance to find out more about what a career in Technology involves. The students worked collaboratively with other students from Walthamstow School for Girls to take advantage of the resources and challenges that were put before them on the day.



The Day in Detail

It was an amazing day that the girls really enjoyed, being motivated through each of the activities. They were delighted to meet Jacquelyn Guderley (Co-founder of Stemettes) as well as Anne-Marie Imafidon (Founder of Stemettes) and Takita (event organisers). These women shared their inspirational journeys into the technology industry which encouraged the girls to look into STEM roles.

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

Tour of the offices

This was the most surprising element for the Woodford girls as most girls expected to see box sized offices with staff working independently. They were astounded to find open space offices with people working within teams alongside each other. These offices were modern and spacious. The girls also had an opportunity to meet one of the project managers and see exactly what the developers were working on.



Creating an App

Each Woodford Girl was paired up with a girl from Walthamstow school and worked together to create an app for a specific scenario. The scenario was to create an app for a music festival in Hackney. The girls had to think of a variety of features they would like to enable and describe them on sticky notes to fill up a wall. The girls filled the wall with some really creative and innovative ideas.

At the end the day, their apps were presented to the rest of the group and judged by the Software panel. Great feedback was given by the judges on their presentation skills, the features of their apps and further developments. We had two winners. The girls also completed a feedback survey for Stemettes online just before leaving and they all received a goodie bag. The winners received a Makey Makey kit.



Testimonials

"It wasn't what I expected. I thought the staff will be isolated but they were working together and enjoying themselves." **Alishba Ahmad 8N**

"I didn't know that I could make an app that quickly and win the competition. The atmosphere was friendly." **Naomi Olubodun 8N**

Christmas card competition – Runners Up 2015

Again we were delighted by the creativity of our entries

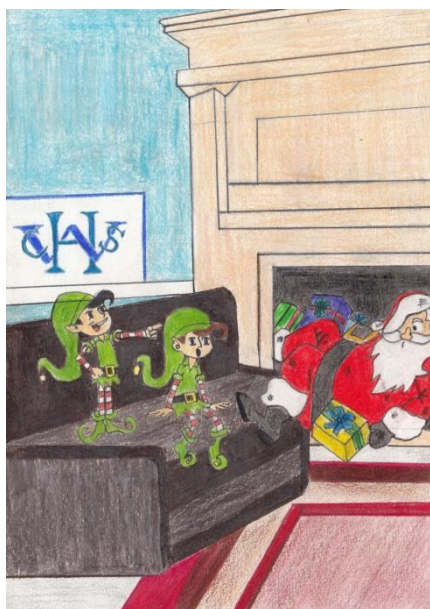
The Runners up

Year 7:

Madeline Wilkinson

7R and Chelleinder

7H



Runners Up Year 8:
Muntashera Uddin
8H &
Anikah Rabbani 8R

For year 9:
Hue-Mai Tang 9R &
Nazifa Azad 9N



THE WINNERS IN 2015 are :

* Miri Williams in 7W who came up with the idea.* Caitlin Robinson in year 13 who realised the idea in oil paint. The winning entry can be viewed at the end of this Newsletter.

Art Visits



September was an exciting month for the sixth form art students, as we had the opportunity to experience two different excursions, learning from a variety of workshops and inspirational surroundings.

On Thursday 17th, the Year 12s and 13s gathered in the Art Studio, ready to set off for 20 Fenchurch Street – affectionately known by Londoners as the Walkie Talkie building – where we were to be visiting the Sky Garden and having a session with critically acclaimed artist Jeanette Barnes. Needless to say Jeanette took us all out of our comfort zones, starting by making us fill a page of our sketchbooks with what looked like scribbles, but was really a valuable lesson in types of mark making. Despite the typical gloom of London, the view did not disappoint, and we spent our time after the workshop avidly sketching and photographing by the massive windows of the beautiful Sky Garden.

The following day, we Year 12s were lucky enough to be out again, this time going off to Hampstead Heath to begin exploring our project on 'Territory'. The art teachers took it in turns to lead workshops around the massive park, beginning with Mrs Jerome showing us an ingenious method of painting with plasticine, and then making us look a very odd bunch as we stood in a circle and moved slowly around to each create a panoramic sketch of the stormy sky. The rain soon began to pour down, but we weren't sheltering for very long; as art students we were duty bound to use all our photography skills taught by Ms Campbell to try to capture the rolling water droplets and the reflections of each other in puddles on the ground. We returned to school with a wealth of creative source material to get going on our projects, and full of ideas and new skills to apply.

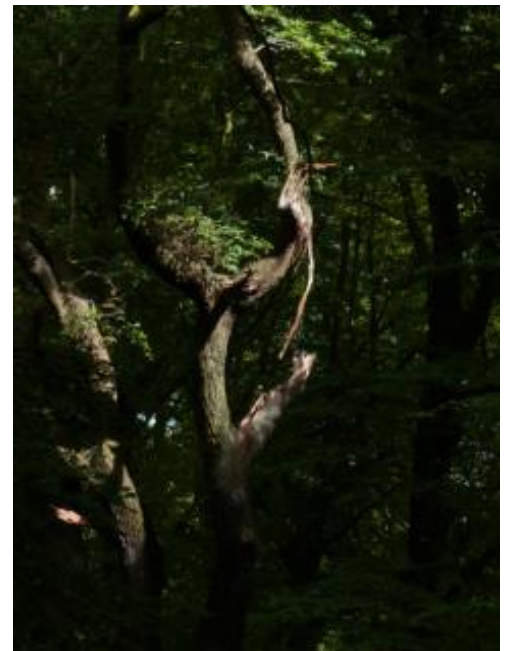


'In the context of my project on Lines, it was interesting to see how [Jeanette] herself used lines to translate the views we saw into simple drawings.' Jahba Kauser-Anan Yr 13

'This was a turning point in my coursework; I'm now layering paintings in oil and experimenting with the 'in-between spaces' that form as a result.' Bareera Borhan Yr 13

'Going to Hampstead Heath allowed me to remove myself from the familiar territory of the urban city and delve into nature – a place which is home to an energy far greater and more powerful than that of man.' Kasturi Kiritharan Yr 12

Sunita Ramani Year 12



Deeds not Words

Social change occurs when society accepts and adopts a belief. A minority is capable of bringing about this change if they are seen to be committed and consistent.

The right to vote which all British women over 21 now enjoy was issued in 1928, after years of struggle and protest. Many British women initially campaigned peacefully for the right to vote in the middle of the 19th century, writing letters to parliament and petitioning to MPs. In 1903, Emmeline Pankhurst and her three daughters, including Sylvia Pankhurst who lived in Woodford, started the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with the motto 'Deeds not words.' They were determined to win the vote for women, but they were in the minority.

Psychologically, once the minority brings attention to an issue, it can create conflict between the majority views, so the majority may think deeper about the issue. As the suffragettes were also consistent in their views, it portrayed that they were firm on their cause. They remained consistent with protesting and lobbying, which led to them being more influential, so more people were aware of their cause, and their group of women grew.

However, all their tireless efforts were of no avail, as the government continued to reject their proposal. The suffragettes turned to violence, breaking shop front windows and using arson to bring publicity to their cause. They were imprisoned and many suffragettes went on hunger strike. According to psychologists, this demonstrates the augmentation principle; this principle claims that if a minority group appears to suffer for their views, they will be taken more seriously as they are committed. This influence can then spread wider and wider, until it reaches a 'tipping point,' leading to change.



Sylvia Pankhurst's home in Woodford Wells, 'Red Cottage'

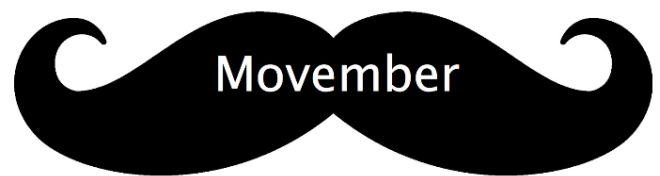
Emily Wilding Davison had been a committed suffragette and in June 1913, she stepped out in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby, a famous horserace. She intended to pin a suffragette badge on the horse, but she was devastatingly trampled and died as a result of her distressing injuries.

Their fight continued for 15 years, and in 1918, women over the age of 30 were given the vote. There was still a huge inequality, as men could vote over 21 whereas this was not the case for women. 10 years later, the Equal Franchise Act was passed in 1928, where all woman above the age of 21 could vote.

The strife of the suffragist movement finally felt worthwhile. Nevertheless, that was not the end. In the 21st century, women are still victims of domestic abuse, and do not receive equal pay in work environments despite doing the same work as their male counterparts. Just as the campaign for women's suffrage worked, men and women collaborated, and this needs to be done again to attain parity.

Salma Patel – A level Psychology Student.

Psychology students study minority influence, and went to view the recent movie "Suffragette"



Once again the school has been able to raise money for prostate Cancer Research.

After half term, Mr. Phillips dispensed with his razor on his top lip throughout the month of November to draw attention to the issues of men's health. This drew a number of quizzical looks from pupils, some of whom plucked up the courage to ask him why he hadn't shaved properly.

Mr. Phillips was heard to wonder aloud about his resemblance to Robert Redford in "Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid", though most judged that this was not an apt comparison.

In addition to the awareness raising of the moustache, there were cake sales throughout the month which raised the sum of £41.85.

Many thanks to all who contributed.

Library News

It has been a wonderful start to the new academic year in the Library. With many of the structural changes, including the new floor plan, video conferencing kit and masses of new fiction kindly donated by the PFA, bringing obvious improvements and enjoyment to the staff and students.

Current projects include:

Reading the World

Welcome to the year of reading the world! This year we embark on a literary adventure. Whilst drawing from our own human and reading experiences, this year promises a whole lot more research and challenges, compelling us to explore other personal histories and cultures.



Ultimately, our adventure will reveal how reading changes and shapes us. Therefore, if you can suggest any young adult fiction stories, written in the first instance in a foreign language, we in the Library will seek out the English translation and promote it, so we can all broaden and share in our knowledge of the life of others. It is hoped that all students will be encouraged to participate in this liberating reading movement.



Other upcoming events include:

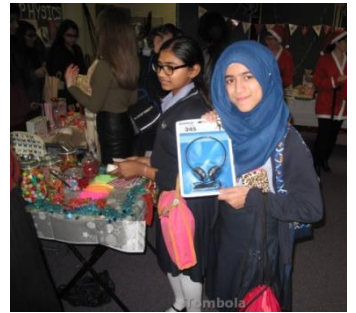
- The Redbridge Book Awards – SIGN UP NOW
- Chess continues on Thursday lunchtimes
- Coming soon – Psychology Club

FINALLYRemember your New Year Resolutions for the Christmas tree....back by popular demand in the next half term.

Have a very Happy Christmas,
Mehala Mithran 9R.

Christmas Tombola for Crisis

During a lunch time in December, the Conference Room was the place to be! The Christmas music was playing and Year 12 were ready with their 13 decorated Tombola stalls as well as Ms Fearnham and Mrs Simister with their stall.



There were a wonderful array of prizes everywhere you looked and the rest of the school were invited to join in the fun by buying tickets and having a go. Roll up! Roll up! could be heard from all the stallholders and there were many happy faces with girls winning prizes.

The event was a huge success and raised £551. Next was a raffle that some Year 12's wanted to organise and this raised £208. Added to the donations received at the end of the Christmas Concert, we are thrilled to have raised £930 for Crisis.

We are delighted to be able to support Crisis this year and this money will help 42 homeless people this Christmas and will enable them to have help including:

- Three nutritious hot meals including Christmas dinner
- The chance to shower and change clothes, have a haircut and get a health check
- Expert advice on life-changing issues like housing and employment

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Simister and Ms Fearnham





Fivepenny Race 2015

In October we held our annual Fivepenny Race in aid of Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. There was much speculation about the outcome of this year's race, following the dramatic win by Highams last year, which overturned Repton's 16 year winning streak. Was it a fluke, or could they do it again? Yes, they could! All of the Houses were in strong competitive spirit, with Highams just pipping the others to the post with 12 lines of 5p pieces along the Terrace.

As a result of the frenetic competition this year's race raised the most money ever. In 45 minutes at lunchtime, we raised £2,786.35!

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

World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support

The Ladies in the Office once again hosted a Coffee Morning in the staff room during a break time in September. There are lots of star bakers at Woodford who baked an array of delicious homemade cakes. Teas, coffee and cake was enjoyed by the Staff and the morning raised £225 for Macmillan Cancer Support making a grand total of £2,202 since we began taking part in the Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning.

Mrs Simister

This year Miss D was chosen to exhibit her work at Great Northern **Contemporary** Craft Fair in Manchester. It was a four day event that also included talks from designers and workshops. Miss D was approached by many galleries to exhibit her work. This was a great chance for Miss D to sell her work and also make new contacts. Miss D was inspired by new designers and can't wait to share the knowledge with the art students at Woodford.



FOYER REFURBISHMENT



Anybody who has been in the foyer/entrance hall, to the school lately will no doubt have noticed that it has a new look. Thanks to the generosity of the Old Girls we have been able to refurbish the area. Although the old furniture was much loved it was also getting the worse for wear. We have therefore replaced the old chairs and sofas with some beautiful new Chesterfields. We were also able to purchase oak furniture, sourced from a local shop on Woodford High Road. Two of the tables now display work from the Art Department and Library, which is renewed each month. The whole new look was finished off by a colourful rug and a refreshing of the pictures on the walls.



At the time of writing the area looks enchanting because it has been supplemented by a beautifully-decorated Christmas tree. The foyer is therefore an attractive space for visitors, teachers and pupils alike. One again, we would like to thank the Old Girls for funding this project.

Mr Jenkins

BUSKING FRIDAY



In the Spring of 2015 we launched Busking Friday, an opportunity for girls to showcase their talents every other Friday in the Greek Theatre. It was a great success, as reported in the last newsletter. We held our final Busking Friday of the calendar year on 25th September, when Paradox once again performed to an appreciative audience. The event was concluded when I had the privilege of performing the Beatles' "Nowhere Man" with them; during that three minutes I suppose the act would have mean called Paradox feat. Mr Jenkins! With weather conditions deteriorating, the current Busking Friday season is over, but I very much look forward to relaunching it after Easter and am already scouting for talent.

Mr Jenkins



Open House 2015

For the third year in succession Woodford threw open its doors to public on a September Sunday as part of the *Open House London* scheme. Girls in Year 12 acted as tour guides learning a great deal about the history of the school as they did so. Our 130+ visitors included our neighbours, former students of the school, architecture enthusiasts and journalists. As ever guests added to our own knowledge. Particularly interesting was research conducted by one local historian into the soldiers who'd been treated at Highams when it served as a military hospital during the First World War.

Ms Pomeroy

PRIZEGIVING



Teachers were gowned-up and students dressed smartly for this year's annual prize-giving. As usual it was a combination of celebrating academic achievement as well as the wider contribution to school life made by a large number of girls from all year groups. The speeches and announcements were punctuated beautifully by musical performances by three of our older students, Alexandra Prellberg, Amrit Kambo and Ella Conlon-Murphy.

Our guest speaker this year was Katherine Watson, our Head Girl in 2006. She now works in advertising and has responsibility for marketing, among other things, Hula Hoops! Katherine gave us a fascinating resume of her career to date, including an impassioned defence of the continued relevance of the Arts, Humanities and Languages in today's increasingly technological world. Indeed Katherine herself is testament to the fact that studying Classics and Latin by no means confines those subjects' enthusiasts to a life of dusty academia. She also spoke of the need for females to continue to fight to break through the career "glass ceiling" and spoke of her gratitude to the school in helping to instil in her the confidence that she could succeed in her chosen field. All in all it was an inspiring talk, and an inspiration to all the Woodford Girls in the audience.

Mr Jenkins

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

This year Mrs Cook has built upon the success of last year's Extra-Curricular clubs by repeating some of the most popular activities. This term we have run the following:

ARTS & CRAFTS

CHES

COOKING

FASHION DESIGN

FENCING

HENNA

MARTIAL ARTS

SEWING

JEWELLERY

BADMINTON

DANCE

HAIR STYLING

NAIL ART

UPCYCLING

It would take up too much space to write about all of these individually, but the girls have benefited from the opportunity to take part in a mix of activities encompassing intellectual, physical and creative skills. It would be invidious to single out any activity for special attention since they



have all provided the girls with great enjoyment and enriched their experience of school and education more widely. Well done to all who have taken part, and a special thanks to the instructors who have run the sessions and to Mrs Cook for her hard work and



energy in promoting this programme and ensuring it has run so smoothly.

Many of these activities will run again in the New Year, with the addition of Boxing and Calligraphy, so if your daughter hasn't tried one yet, then why not encourage her to give it a go?

Mr Jenkins

Inter-form Netball 2015

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. Those playing put in 100% effort and all matches were highly competitive. There was also great support and enthusiasm from the spectators (and form tutors) – cheering on 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 thank you to the 6th form umpires and 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 st – Highams 2 nd – Warner 3 rd – Newton 4 th – Repton
Year 8	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 st – Warner 2 nd – Highams 3 rd – Repton 4 th – Newton
Year 9	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 st – Highams 2 nd – Repton 3 rd – Newton 4 th – Warner
Year 10	1 st – Highams 2 nd – Newton Joint 3 rd – Repton & Warner
Year 11	1 st – Newton 2 nd – Highams 3 rd – Repton 4 th – Warner

Borough Cross Country

On Tuesday 13th October Woodford headed off to Wanstead Park to compete in the Borough Cross Country; we fielded full teams in all categories (junior, inter and senior girls).

The following students finished in the top ten in their category:

Junior Girls (Team: 4th Place)

5th Place: Laurelle Brant

Inter Girls (Team: 3rd Place)

6th Place: Megan Bradley

8th Place: Shaihihiya Sivapalan

Senior Girls (Team: 2nd Place)

3rd Place: Rojah Thayabaran

5th Place: Gabbey Kurpyte

6th Place: Nilaa Subendran

8th Place: Saranya Sivapalan



Woodford League Cross Country

Each October Woodford competes in the 3 race Woodford League competition at Claybury Park. This year, like every other saw a mix of weather conditions and tough competition. After the three races the final results were as follows:

Year 7 & 8: 4th Place

Year 9 & 10: 2nd Place

The following girls put in particularly good performances:

Year 7 & 8:

- 6th Place: Rebecca Armstrong

Year 9 & 10:

- 3rd Place: Annali Olivelle
- 4th Place: Laurelle Brant
- 9th Place: Ella Conlon-Murphy
- 10th Place: Zahra Lahrie



Miss Keeling, Head of PE

Miss Irwin, PE

Leavers Gallery

Jane Karavasili



Jane joined Woodford (from Valentine's High School) in September 2007 as Head of Technology. In her 8 years here she has brought energy, creativity and a good dose of pragmatism to the teaching of the subject in Key Stages 3 and 4. In Design Technology and Graphics girls have learnt useful life lessons about problem solving and they've developed confidence and manual dexterity in crafting everything from mechanisms to

packaging, jewellery to toys. Mindful of the changing nature of such a subject, Jane has been an active networker, keeping up-to-date with developments and lobbying for additional equipment, some of which has then been put to the service of the wider school. The printer cutter, for example, has provided highly professional signage and marketing material for events such as 11+ testing and our 2015 World of Work Day. It even printed the banners which welcomed the *Tour de France* to Woodford in 2014!



Our Design and Technology workshop is a buzzing and productive place. Students work purposefully and safely in response to a brief, identifying practical solutions, making and testing their



products, and evaluating outcomes. They gain a useful insight into how things work and into the importance of market research and customer feedback. They also catch something of Jane's own enthusiasm for hands on activity and the satisfaction of seeing a project through to its conclusion. Jane's outside interests and commitments have also enriched girls' opportunities in school. She has led a variety of innovative eco projects as well as establishing and maintaining the School Garden. Collaboration is a natural working method for her and in addition to promoting practical cookery here, she's worked hand in hand with the Art Department (for example on the School Birthday front-lawn "Forest" 2011) and with Geography (the "Lessons from Nature" initiative). Colleagues find her gregarious, inventive and hardworking and students value her warmth and empathy as well as her determination that all should succeed.

Early retirement gives Jane the opportunity to fly entrepreneurial kites and to grapple with her allotment as well as to support a family member. Happily she is retaining a bolt-hole locally and thus need not become a stranger to Woodford. We thank Jane for all she has done to ensure that the practical and the academic sit side by side in the curriculum and also for the enthusiasm she has brought to wider school projects. It's a well-earned retirement that awaits her.



Jane's retirement cake made by Mrs Rhodes, Food Technology.

The Winning Christmas Card.

Miri Williams in 7W came up with the idea and **Caitlin Robinson** in Year 13 realised the idea in oil paint.

