

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH NEWSLETTER



Issue No 22 December 2017

Autumn 2017 Headlines

As we enter the season traditionally identified with the ideals of peace on earth and good will towards all men (by which is meant, of course, toward both men and women), it's only natural to find yourself reflecting on how well the planet we inhabit is measuring up to those ideals – but when you do, the honest answer appears to be (perhaps predictably) that progress is patchy.

Let's begin with the positive. There is, I think, real cause for optimism in what is clearly a growing awareness that any society that likes to think of itself as civilised needs actively to be promoting equal respect and equal chances for all (and that means *all*) of its members. It must be true to say, for example, that the rights and interests of vulnerable and minority groups have never been so robustly protected in law as they are today – and true also (though this is harder to establish) that generally, at the level of individuals and their attitudes, a greater tolerance, open-mindedness and empathy is apparent than would have been the case even within, say, the memory of our older students. The importance of this, and the social effort it has taken to bring it about, should never be underestimated.

At the same time, however, evidence is never far to seek of so much more change remaining to be effected. Anyone casting their mind back, as 2017 draws to a close, over the news stories of these past months, will readily recall shameful instances of inequality, abuse and even (let's not shirk the word) oppression – not all of them affording us the comforting reflection that they took place on the other side of the world. I don't propose to go into detail here (you'll be able to think of your own examples), but I will just highlight the fact that within the last few weeks the Government's own Social Mobility Commission has resigned *en bloc* with a statement from its Chair that there was currently 'little hope' of the sort of political action needed 'to bring about a fairer Britain.'

I've made this the theme of my Christmas newsletter *Headlines* because, as I have stressed before in this column, it's my unshakeable belief that such issues should be explained and explored and wrestled with in schools at least as urgently as everywhere else (perhaps even more so), and above all with the central participation of the students themselves. This is why at the time of writing we are revisiting, as a whole-school project, the extent to which the principles of Equality and Equity are enshrined in our policies and practice. You will be aware from my recent letter to you on the subject that all or our students were being asked to consider the nine protected characteristics (age, race, gender, disability, etc.) identified in the Equalities Act of 2010, and to evaluate their relevance – in the broadest sense of the word – within the context of school life. I am pleased to be able to report that this consultation has now taken place, and that the responses generated by it will be taken very actively into consideration as the project moves forward.

Three things in particular should be added at this stage. The first is my thanks to our excellent team of form prefects, who so helpfully and efficiently undertook the task of administering the consultation in Years 7 – 11, including the leading and reporting of class discussions. The second is that there will be further opportunities after the holiday for students to involve themselves in the ongoing process. And the third is to underline for all concerned that this enterprise is not about ensuring our conformity with the Equalities legislation (that much we have firmly in place already) but about taking the crucial extra step of embracing its *spirit*. To parents and carers, I would repeat the invitation already issued in my letter, to address any observations you might have on the subject to me at head@woodford.redbridge.sch.uk. And to every member of the Woodford community I extend my warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas and a happy and successful New Year.

Ms Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher



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Woodford Teachers Take Action in Research Projects

Professional development for all teachers at Woodford has gone through a step change this year as we seek to stay at the forefront of developments in teaching and learning through undertaking action research projects, looking into our own teaching practice. Over the past few years, there has been a national shift in schools from 'CPD' – Continuing Professional Development, often characterised by visiting speakers coming into schools to talk to groups of teachers – to 'JPD' – Joint Professional Development, which seeks to build on and share teachers' existing expertise about areas of their classroom practice which they themselves identify as wanting to improve.

In order to start our own culture of JPD, Woodford has joined CamStar – 'Cambridge, School Teachers and Research' – an international network of schools who work closely with the University of Cambridge to facilitate action research projects. In line with the CamStar model, Woodford's teachers are working together across four research groups, focusing on areas including effective assessment and marking, student leadership, and innovations in Sixth Form teaching. Within each group, teachers are working individually and with others to plan and carry out action research – starting by identifying 'research questions' informed by existing academic literature, then planning and carrying out activities in the classroom, the results of which will then be analysed to determine their effectiveness. The projects being carried out are incredibly wide-ranging – examples include an evaluation of the usefulness of self-assessment of extended writing in Modern Languages, the impact of different seating plans on students' engagement and learning in Science, the effect of regular exercise on self-confidence and body image amongst students, and to what extent student leaders within lessons in a wide range of subjects might improve learning of the whole class.

Next term looks to be a busy one, with the majority of the action research itself being carried out before Easter – but we look forward with great anticipation to sharing our findings in the summer term. Meanwhile, do look out for our termly 'Research Bulletins' on the school website which will document our progress – as well as focusing on developments on teacher research across the country.

Ms Hasler, Acting Head of Sixth Form

Woodford's Musicians Shine at Christmas Concert

Last Thursday saw in the start of the Christmas season with Woodford's annual Christmas Concert – a festive celebration of all of the best music that the school has to offer. As always, musicians from all year groups came together to provide a wonderful evening's entertainment – from the Big Band opening the evening with the stunning 'Sway' – featuring year 13 singer Antonia Pereira – to the Junior Band's TV-worthy rendition of the Strictly Coming Dancing theme, and the Senior Choir's performance of year 13 Grace Mo's arrangement of Elvis' hit song 'can't Help Falling In Love', there was something for everyone to enjoy.



Highlights this year came from the now 90-strong Year 8 Brass band performing 'Jingle Bell Wonderland' – the sight and sound of so many trumpets, cornets, baritones and trombones was certainly something to behold – and from the Orchestra's rendition of three movements from Saint-



Saens' 'Carnival of the Animals' – an ambitious work which they plan to continue adding to throughout the year to come. The second half of the concert featured

festive readings and carols alongside excellent choral performances from the WCHS Singers, Staff Choir and Senior Choir – this time conducted by Trainee Music Teacher Miss Hardiman – before finishing in rousing Woodford-style with a huge finale: Slade's 'Merry Christmas Everybody' performed by nearly 200 musicians!

Ms Hasler, Head of Music

Music Tour 2017



The long awaited return of the Music Tour to the Black Forest kicked off after months of anticipation and a year of practising lively dances and jazzy tunes. Despite the early hour we set off, we were full of excitement, and the journey to our hostel was full of singing and beautiful scenery.

The beautiful scenery continued on the next day, when we visited the Triberg Waterfalls and the town surrounding Lake Titisee. Our first concert of the tour took place at Titisee Konzertpavillion. Unlike English weather and its unpredictability, the weather in Germany was sunny and warm, so we were massively taken by surprise when we and our audience were drenched with a downpour of rain just as the concert ended!

On Day 3 we all shared a brand new experience- performing in a theme park. Before our set, our tour manager, Georg, explained that playing in a theme park has a very different atmosphere, and that we might not have a massive audience, so it was really touching to see tourists spending the day at Europa Theme Park stop to listen and enjoy our music. After our performance, we spent the rest of the day on the scariest rides in the theme park's different 'countries', and were all thoroughly exhausted on our return to the hostel.

We spent our final morning walking around a town called Freiburg. On a tour around the town, we saw small streams called bächle; legend has it that if someone falls into one of these, they are destined to fall in love with and marry someone from Freiburg, and of course someone did fall in!

Afterwards we split off to explore the town: some of us spent this time at the Cathedral, others shopping for souvenirs and local delicacies, and one group even walked to the top of the Schlossberg (Castle Hill)! When we arrived at Badenweiler Kurhaus for our final concert, we were amazed to find a huge audience already waiting for us, and were overwhelmed by their generous donations to our music department.

When we returned to the hostel, we had a campfire to celebrate our hard work. Aside from obvious campfire traditions like making s'mores and, of course, lots of singing, we also (somewhat) mastered the art of baking bread on sticks. At the end of the evening, we were even serenaded in German by Georg, who happens to be a professional opera singer.

We were sad to leave the Black Forest behind, but we left with so many happy memories; a massive thank you to Miss Hasler for organising the tour, Miss Hannent for leading the Big Band and Mrs Moore for joining us and helping in orchestra and choir.

Zaynab, Year 13



Widening Horizons Evening

On 18th October we ran our Widening Horizons Evening, a new venture aimed at giving prospective A Level students a greater insight into the opportunities that can be provided by studying Arts, Humanities and Languages in the Sixth Form.

The evening kicked off with an inspiring speech by our speaker, Diana Kurakina, a Woodford old girl (although not so old!) who now works at a prestigious art auctioneer's in Mayfair. She talked about her career since leaving Woodford and how important a part a love of the arts had played in her life. In the course of the speech she also made some points which are profoundly important to all of us. Here are some extracts:

The things which are truly valuable are difficult to quantify. The true benefits of studying the arts are that they enrich the life and everyday experience of students...

By studying books, paintings and the societies and histories in which these were created, we come to have a deeper understanding of ourselves, the world, and other people. This allows us to have more empathy for those around us...

As a result, one can cultivate a deeper sense of self-confidence and self-awareness, which allows us to be true to ourselves rather than conforming too much to other people's opinions or social expectations, which may be harmful...

The humanities facilitate us with the ability to see not only behavioural patterns, but also social, political and economic ones which in turn gives us the opportunity to think about the future and predict how things may evolve and therefore be prepared for this, or have the power and awareness to change things.

Michelle Obama recently gave a speech at a Humanities conference where she brought everything together with the following words:

"The arts and humanities define who we are as people. That is their power – to remind us what we each have to offer, and what we all have common. To help us to understand our history and imagine our future. To give us hope in moments of struggle and to bring us together when nothing else will".

The speech was very well-received and was followed by a series of workshops and talks in ten different subjects. By the end of the evening all those girls and parents who attended had a greater appreciation of what this range of subjects has to offer.

Mr Jenkins, Deputy Headteacher

Prizegiving



Our annual celebration of the girls' achievement in the academic year 2016-17 took place on Thursday 9th November. There was the usual range of academic awards, plus a number of Service Prizes for girls who had made significant contributions to the wider life of the school or local community. For our ex-GCSE girls, this year awards were given to those who had achieved ten A* or equivalent grades and/or three of the new 9 grades. To put the latter into context, only 2,000 pupils in the whole country achieved three grade 9s; ten of these were from Woodford. Indeed our Grade 9 achievement was outstanding. Here is how Woodford fared compared to national figures:

Subject	Grade 9			
	NATIONAL (ALL)	NATIONAL (BOYS)	NATIONAL (GIRLS)	WCHS
ENGLISH LANG	2.9%	2.3%	3.5%	29%
ENGLISH LIT	3.2%	1.9%	4.5%	32%
MATHEMATICS	3.5%	4%	2.9%	38%

This year's prizegiving speech was given by Jennie Dunne, a former pupil who left the school in 2008. She is now a successful actor and is currently touring the world in the play Golem. Jennie recalled with great affection her time here at Woodford and, unsurprisingly, her devotion to House Drama. Her speech, which contained some quite earthy references, went down a storm with the girls. Its message of balancing work with fun, aspiration with understanding and making the most of the only life we have was both well-received and highly apposite. The evening was closed with kind words by the Deputy Mayor of Redbridge, Councillor Ashley Kissin.

Mr Jenkins, Deputy Headteacher

Modern Foreign Languages

Visit to Munich Christmas Markets



Our journey started off at 10pm at school. Everyone cosied up with blankets and pillows while the bus driver, Richard, played festive Christmas songs. The atmosphere was brilliant! Hours passed with us trying to drift off into sleep. We crossed the English Channel through the Eurotunnel to France, then Belgium, then the Netherlands until finally reaching Germany at noon. Wow, a 13 hour journey. Excitement was rising as we went into the youth hostel, a *Jugendherberge*. Lunch was served; it seems that *Käse Stücke* (cheese sticks) are a German delicacy! After lunch we walked through Münster to the *Friedenssaal* where we learnt about the history and importance of Münster during The Thirty Years War. We had all already caught a glimpse of the Christmas markets (*Weihnachtsmarkt*) that we had yet to visit and couldn't wait. We went back to the hostel for dinner, where we spoke with a local German doctor and were able to ask her questions.

After dinner, the time came to visit the Christmas market. After a short walk we reached it and were amazed at the different things you could find. Roasted chestnuts, caramelised almonds, beautiful Christmas tree decorations and more. After a little while in the Christmas market, it started to snow. This was when it really felt like a magical Christmas. We felt so happy that we started singing Christmas songs. As we lined up for crepes we found that we had a problem: the menu was in German!

After frantically trying to search up "cinnamon" in our pocket dictionary Alishba and Aathira decided to go for a Kinder chocolate crepe and Alice saw that cinnamon was not in the dictionary and asked what the person next to her had and went for that. Turned out it was a chocolate and marshmallow crepe! Delicious!

We have since learnt the word for cinnamon; "Zimt" – very useful in the Christmas markets. We walked back in the snow looking forward to a nice hot shower at the hostel. After showers we played a few games of cards and went off to bed.

In the morning we had a Tour of Münster in German, which was quite cold. Alishba and Alice were given the job of being translators for Ms Estruch. After the tour we were delighted to go into the warmth of the Münster library where there was a huge variety of books and CDs. Alice found a piano with headphones which she played for nearly the whole hour without realising. Then we had lunch around the shopping centre. After that, we went to an art museum where we had another tour in German and more translators were required for Ms Estruch and Ms Athman. We came back to the hostel to have dinner and went back out again to another Christmas market which was as magical as the first one. After that, we went back for our last night in Münster.

The next morning, we got in the coach to visit another Christmas market in Aachen which was short but fun. Then we went on the long journey home watching Shrek in German when our shuttle was delayed. Overall, the trip was a fun and exciting way for us to improve our German and get into the Christmas spirit!

Aathira, Alice, Alishba and Devika, Year 10

Languages Live

Bonjour, مرحبا, Hallo, 你好, Hola!

The languages fair that we attended recently was something that would benefit all students who are studying a language. Even if one is not, simply going there to see the strong bond that holds our world together is worth the trip. There were many languages present, including, Chinese, French, Arabic, Spanish, etc. One of the busiest stalls was a European one where a quiz was to be solved. All the 50 countries of Europe were represented through the quiz with the word 'milk' appearing in each of their individual languages. Anyone who was able to get over half the word right won the prize of a t-shirt and bag which had the word 'welcome', written on it in various languages. All these stalls exposed us to a different experience and revealed the cultures and differences there are to celebrate.

Yursa, Year 12

Geography Department Autumn 2017

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 **fifth** visit to Iceland. Just before the ½ term break, 22 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.



Although rather cold and wet, the weather wasn't too extreme – enabling us to do everything on our itinerary and allowing us to see the captivating 'northern lights' on our first evening staying in the south of the country.



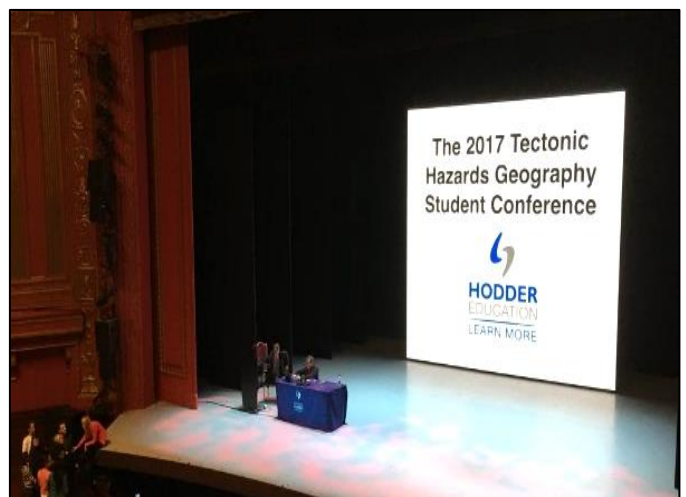
A huge thank you to all parents– the group had a fantastic time. We are already booked in for next year's visit – our largest group to date - 44 students!

Apart from the chilly winds of Iceland, Year 11 geography students got to experience the fresh air of the Essex coastline whilst on their fieldtrip to Walton-on-the-Naze.

The purpose of the visit was to develop a wide variety of data collection methods and think about the skills relating to geographical enquiry – all very important for the new exams coming up next summer.



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!



Mr Saxton, Head of Geography

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

At WCHS we provide a comprehensive CEIAG programme to students in every year group and this includes aspects of work related learning, enterprise education and option choices. Students in our Sixth Form are very well supported as they make their applications to University, apply for Higher Level Apprenticeships or other non-University post 18 pathways.



In recognition of our high quality CEIAG programme, WCHS has been awarded the investor in careers quality kitemark on two separate occasions. This has now been replaced with the quality in careers award and we are committed to achieving this award in the next academic year with the support of various stakeholders.

Mr Donohoe, Head of Economics and Work Related Learning

Politics Talk @ Ilford County with QMU

On 31st October the Year 12 Politics students were invited to Ilford County High School to attend a talk delivered by Dr Eleanor Brooks, specialist in public policy and the EU, from the department of Politics and International Relations at Queen Mary's University London. Dr Brook's talk focused on the constitutional implications of Brexit, and provided a fascinating insight into a complex and highly topical issue that is of direct relevance not only to the A Level politics curriculum, but to all our lives. Following her lecture, Dr Brooks was happy to take questions from students, and the Woodford Politics students were quick to take her up on this offer, with many girls asking a range of interesting questions that helped to unlock further avenues for debate. The girls left Dr Brooks' talk with even more questions than answers, a common experience in the current political climate, yet considerably more informed on the rich debate surrounding the constitutional implications of Brexit and keen to continue the discussions back at school in our next lesson.

Ms Horner, Head of History and Politics

House Drama 2017

A bright sense of hope hung in the air on the 14th of November as



students bustled about, making last minute preparations, anticipating the moment the lights would dim and the

curtains would open. Hair, makeup, costumes, learning lines, learning choreography; weeks of hard work and dedication had built up to the day and finally the time had come. Decorative posters and cast lists helpfully introduced each House and the theatrical production they would perform: Hairspray by Repton, Shrek the Musical by Highams, Hercules by Newton, and The Addams Family by Warner.



Within the span of several hours, the audience were witness to well-executed choreography, strong vocals and impressive acting. At the end of the day Repton took home the trophy due to their lively ensemble. Repton House truly channelled the '60s through their well-rehearsed orchestral pieces and vibrant costumes. The day certainly came with its challenges, but it was definitely an opportunity for creative students to express themselves. This year's annual House Drama Production, once again, concluded with triumph and students eagerly await announcements for next year.

Ayesha, 11H



Sky Garden Visit



On the 7th November, art sixth formers and year 11 art students had the opportunity to visit the *Sky Garden* on the top of the Walkie Talkie, and meet

contemporary artist Jeanette Barnes. Upon arrival, we were delighted by the view of London city landscapes from above, and this inspired a lot of our work. During the workshop, we took part in various activities which stretched us as artists and gave us a different insight into the way architectural drawings can be approached.



During my year 11 project, I had the opportunity to study her work and be inspired. I am also interested in pursuing architecture in the future, and to be able to meet Jeannette and talk to her was a real treat! I found this workshop greatly enjoyable and I am happy to have been able to participate in such an insightful event.



Amber, Year 11

Life Drawing at the RA



On the 9th of October, some sixth form Art students and year 10 GCSE art students took part in a life drawing workshop.

This workshop was particularly good as it encouraged us all to explore different techniques and materials, it gave us the opportunity to try to draw -what many people think is- the hardest thing in ART.

In the beginning, some year 10s and I were quite nervous at the fact that a nude woman was going to be posing in front of us. However, once the workshop begun we found that there was nothing to be anxious about and we felt at ease rapidly. The teacher was quick to encourage us to create art by using different techniques and using lights and darks to make our drawings focussing more on light and form. The workshop showed me that it's okay to make mistakes in art and that I don't just have to stick to my usual watercolours and I can experiment with different mediums rather than sticking with just one.

We are all very appreciative of the art department for giving us this opportunity.

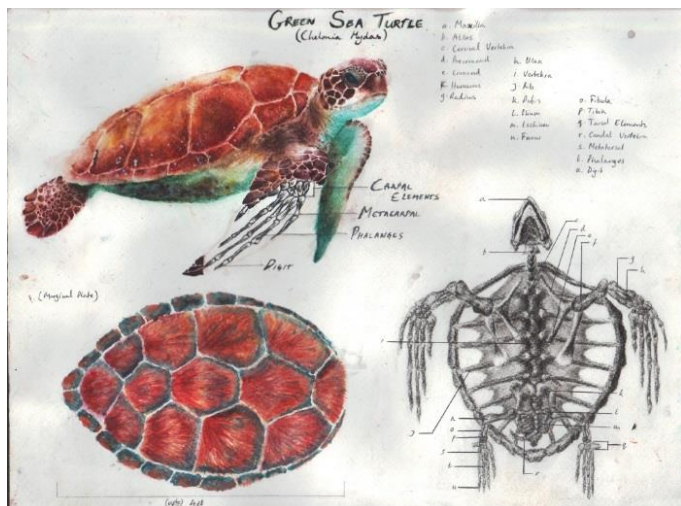


Kayley, Year 10



Nancy Rothwell Art and Biology Competition 2017

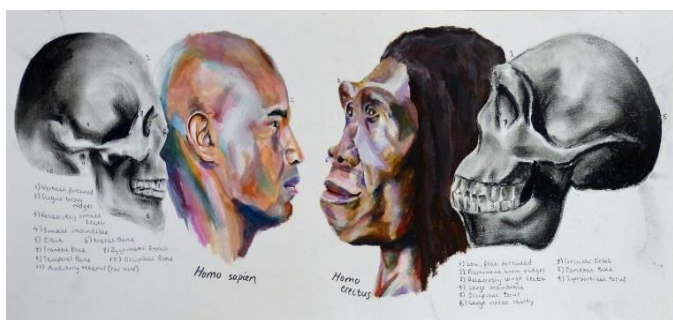
For the first time, Art and Biology collaborated in the Nancy Rothwell competition.



Anikah Rabbani

This competition challenged students to create a piece of art displaying a specimen of the choice and labelling the anatomical structures. The range of entries we submitted were outstanding and the mediums ranged from different drawings, paint work and techniques and even wood sketching. We are very proud to announce that Anikah Rabbani was awarded Highly Commended in the Age 12-14 category and Devika Shah was shortlisted in the age 15-18 category (see entries below). The range of fantastic entries are soon to be displayed around school.

Ms Estruch, Head of Science



Devika Shah

Lesser Spotted Sciences- Oxford University Outreach Visit

In October the Science Department led a visit for Year 11 students to Oxford University. There were only four spaces for this event and students were selected based on their outstanding exam results.



The day started bright and early at school for 6am to embark on the long drive to Oxford. The day was filled with inspiring lectures on science subjects the students were less familiar with. Students learnt about Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Material Sciences, Philosophy with Science, Engineering and more. The Material sciences captured the students' imagination, hypothesising the potential of using Buckminsterfullerene molecules to transform modern medicine! Students were shown around the impressive colleges and libraries and got the chance to have lunch with a current Oxford students. Returning back to school at 8pm made for a very long day, but one that was well worth it filled with motivation for what a future at Oxford could bring and how to achieve that aspiration.

Ms Estruch, Head of Science

Essex Chemistry at Work 2017

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Chemistry at Work trip. I loved the variety of different talks including talks about polymers, water and food. Some of them had demonstrations. They were fun as they were very interactive; however some of the less interactive ones were more informative.

Ophelia, 9W

I liked how there were a range of chemical engineers from different backgrounds, they really helped me see what career choices are available to me if I choose this subject.

Shirin, 9N

Physics Autumn 2017

GCSE Science in Action – 11 December

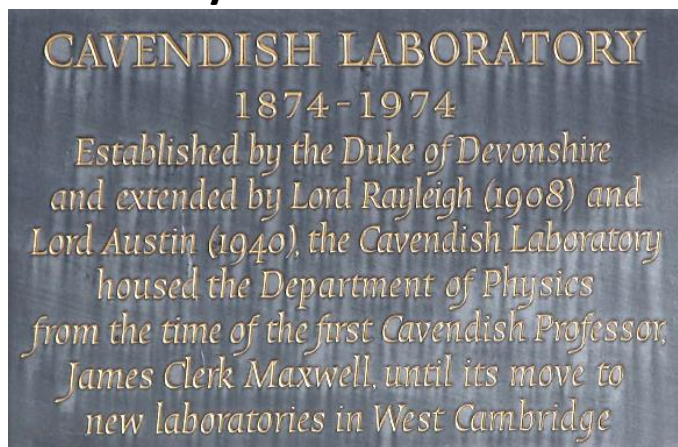


I was lucky enough to be part of a group of sixty Year 10 students to have the opportunity to go on the 'Science in Action' GCSE trip this year, in central London a stone's throw away from UCL. After a slow walk (it was icy!) to Woodford Station, we took the tube to Euston and assembled in our seats at the venue (Friend's House). The day was essentially listening to five very different but highly engaging talks, the first of which was done by an aquanaut, a profession that I never even knew existed prior to the day. The last talk by Robert Winston however was a definite highlight, as, having obtained the only ever footage of an ovum travelling down the fallopian tube, he was definitely a man to remember. It wasn't all listening though; we were delighted to say the least when a Marty Jobson, the third speaker began chopping planks of wood in half with his bare hands and cracking whips inches from my friend's face (all in the name of science of course). See pictures below! Perhaps a small weight was lifted off of our Year 10 studies after that day, as we witnessed science beyond the classroom, textbooks and tests. It was truly science in action.

Many thanks to Miss Estruch and Dr Metelo for organising the trip.

Hannah, 10W

Physics trip to Cavendish Laboratory



In November, a group of students went on a trip, organised by Miss Patel, to the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge. That morning, we came to school at 7:30 then swiftly departed on the coach. Once we arrived at Cambridge, we were sorted into groups who all had different talks and experiences. The first session that my group attended was about the Meissner effect and superconductors. To us these looked like a flying piece of metal but was really liquid nitrogen transitioning the normal conductor to a superconducting state, allowing a magnet to float. The next talk we went to discussed the transformation of states and the properties of certain materials for example the ability of putty to behave both as a liquid and as a solid. After this, we were taught about the strength that sound waves can have, the presenter levitated small pieces of styrofoam using a loud sound with an extremely high frequency. We then went on to learn about the extent of 3D printing and how it can potentially revolutionise astrophysics, making planes more durable yet lighter than ever before, with the same group we also began to understand the factors that go into plane design. The next people that we spoke to showed us how to safety proof designs, for example a racing car may go extremely fast, yet turn over from contact with a pebble so they need to compromise and adjust designs to suit environmental factors and keep users safe.

Finally, we came to the talk about organic solar cells, this was arguably my favourite discussion as I came to the realisation that despite solar energy being renewable, until the current third generation that uses organic materials, the making process used extreme amounts of silicone. The company showed us the many uses of organic solar cells, for example clothing. After this, we had our lunch then left Cambridge to go back to school, it was a great day for us all.

Madeline, 9R

Psychology: Dr Dance Event

Fake news, dance, hypnosis and magic aren't immediately considered to dwell under the abstract umbrella of psychology. Yet, an array of eccentric speakers ranging from Cara Flanagan our beloved text book author, university lecturers and a world renowned hypnotist, charmed the audience with a presentation on psychology not only as an academic subject, but as the foundation of a number of experiences at the Science & Psychology Conference 2017.



Zany Hertfordshire professor Dr Peter Lovett shared his story with the audience, beginning with an inspiring anecdote of being reprimanded at school for his learning difficulties and pursuing his passion for dance which took him around the world. Returning to education in his mid-twenties, Dr Dance as he likes to be known, completed A levels in psychology and later English before attending Cambridge university to pursue his academic studies. While picking up a couple of colourfully named dance moves such as the 'John Travolta', Dr Dance introduced the audience to how our unique dancing style correlates to the many biological and psychological processes taking place within us. He explained how fluctuations in hormones affect dancing styles and demonstrated how he carries out his research both in night clubs as well as the dance psychology laboratory.

Magic, we discovered, is not just the artistry of tangible tricks. Dr Oliver Meech – a psychologist based at Oxford University, explained how deflecting attention is the key to the manipulation of the mind. Dr Meech taught the audience how to perform the disappearing pen trick whilst successfully diverting, altering and reproducing reality in order to astonish and amaze.

The final speaker showcased a sleeping princess and the bizarre exchange of shoes between strangers during a demonstration of group hypnosis. Two dozen eager student volunteers dwindled to just 13 as we witnessed the transfer of control from each individual to Andrew Newton – Harley Street psychologist and trained hypnotherapist.

One Q & A and two weeks later, we are still as delighted and perplexed as we were then.

Deborah, Year 12

Psychology Webinar with Goldsmiths' University

Students at Woodford are no strangers to the power of technology to transform their learning experiences. Last month, EPQ students were privileged to have a seminar with a professor of psychology from the comfort of the school library.



Dr Rebecca Chamberlain

Dr Rebecca Chamberlain based at Goldsmiths College, London, specialises in the creative process, with a focus on the psychology of art making. She lead a webinar session listening personally to the research topics of a group of 8 Woodford girls, all of whom shared an interest in psychology. Dr Chamberlain offered feedback and suggested further reading on themes which ranged widely from addiction to trauma, post-partum psychosis and rising rates of depression in British teenagers. This unique learning experience added to students' literature review research in a novel and dynamic way and gave EPQ candidates a further taste of university style learning to come.

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Ms Liebeskind, Head of Psychology

5 Penny Race



During lunchtime on Friday 6th October, students hurried down to the back terrace laden with jars, purses and containers brimming with 5 penny pieces. As always five penny fever took hold of the four Houses, and our girls ran around frantically competing to be the house that completed the greatest number of lines made up entirely of five pence pieces. The atmosphere was electric, and as ever we were astounded at how much money they were able to raise in only 45 minutes. The title this year went to Highams house and in total the school raised a whopping £1,813.12 for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research – a staggering achievement! The cheque has been sent to Bloodwise and we know that they are delighted to have received our donation. The event is held every year in memory of Kim Holdstock, a student who passed away from Leukaemia in 1988, and over the years that we have been holding the race in her honour, Woodford has raised an amazing £44,000.

**LEUKAEMIA
& LYMPHOMA
RESEARCH** 

Beating Blood Cancers

Ms Douek, Deputy Head of Sixth Form

University Life at Wadham College, Oxford University

On the 21st November 2017, 12 Year 9's and 10's travelled to Wadham College, Oxford University. Once we arrived we participated in a taster session to show us what University life might be like. We had a selection of a physics or a classics talk. I chose the Classics lesson. We spent an hour talking about coins and what they tell us about the time they were made or used. It was very interesting and we found out a few things that we don't normally notice generally.

After lunch, we were given a tour by a former Woodford student who is a current student of Wadham. Here we got to see more social side to University life and where the students live. We saw the large library, the junior student room, the gym, the lovely grounds and learnt a lot about the history of the college. We were informed about how culturally diverse Wadham is and how there is something there for everyone. After the tour we had a chance to ask questions about the courses they provide and learn more about Oxford University as a whole.

We were then taken to the history museum of the university. In this university, we were able to see over 7 million specimen of animal skeletons and skin and even living creatures. After the experience of the museum, we made our way back to school.

Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity and I learnt a lot about University life.

Aasha, 10R



Future First: Feeding Britain's Future



On Tuesday 7th November 30 students from year 9 took part in a Future First workshop. 6 employers from different departments within the IGD (Institute of Grocery Distribution) came into school to talk to us as part of the programme called 'Feeding Britain's Future' which is a project to encourage secondary school students to perceive and appreciate their skills in order to prepare them for the world of work.



The workshop focussed on highlighting the variety of jobs available within the food and grocery industry, ranging from primary economic activities, such as farming, to quaternary economic jobs such as IT specialists. We found this workshop incredibly useful and also fun as it helped us realise how our skills, strengths and values would help us when we apply for jobs in the future.



Aamukta, 9R

Library News Autumn 2017



This term sought to utilise the video conferencing kit to a broader extent. This autumn we have enjoyed 30+ multi-disciplinary events delivering high quality and enjoyable opportunities for students to engage with the medium and to experience a virtual excursion to the outside world. Highlights have included our continued partnership with the Manhattan Music School stretching our students with one-to-one masterclasses with professional musicians.

MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC 2017/2018

Continuing with the Masterclass programme in 2017/2018, students have already benefited from one-to-one lessons in vocals, strings and woodwind. In the Spring term we collaborate again with Oaks Parks High School with choirs, one-to-one's and instrumentalists.

"... the feedback very useful as it made me view my piece differently, focussing on the actual meaning rather than the style of singing." Year 13 student, WCHS

"I found the session and feedback useful as I got in depth help on certain parts of the piece, giving it great detail. It made me think about my piece on a higher level." Year 13 student, WCHS

"The input of the tutors [MSM] forces them [students] to consider the context and performance practice of their pieces in a way that they otherwise wouldn't - enabling the students to become more mature as musicians, a key consideration when preparing for A Level Music recitals." Katie Halser, Head of Music, WCHS

Our Sixth Form students have been given direct access to numerous University Department Heads to critically examine the benefits of university life and to fully appreciate the difference between courses and universities. Just launched this week by Sixth Former Katherine, the TransAtlantic Book Club is a partnership with a US secondary school which offers a fun discourse on the pleasures of reading for KS3 and 4 students. Wishing you a very happy Christmas.

Mrs Horn, School Librarian

Year 7 Sleepover



On the 13th October I was lucky enough to attend the famous Woodford County sleepover! This fun-packed night was an event to remember.

When I arrived I was ushered into the spacious 6th form block. Girls milled around, chatting to their friends. Soon we were split into groups and 6th formers, who had kindly agreed to help out, organised games. After some very fun games of Wink Murder pizza arrived! This was wolfed down along with minirolls. There was a lot of chatter and soon we had set up sleeping bags. Everyone was sharing sweets and bouncing about. Mrs Hawks was in for a long night!

Our first movie, Mulan, was watched with lots of laughter. Everyone enjoyed it! After that, we were all marched into the bathroom to brush our teeth (this had no impact on the sweet intake!!). Some of the more sensible members of our group dropped off to sleep but the rest of us remained doggedly awake. However, after Beauty and the beast, everyone was fast asleep (!).

In the morning we woke up bleary eyed and yawning. Sadly it was time to go home. Everyone loved it and Year 7 would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs Hawks and Miss Keith!

Carys, 7E

After School Clubs

Once again, we ran a fabulous range of After-School Clubs this autumn term. These included (among others) boxing, photography, a radio workshop, fashion design, gymnastics and drama. We have been particularly pleased with the radio workshop – there are some budding journalists and presenters among us!



Thanks must go once again to Mrs Cook for organising these sessions. Plans for next term include Mandarin, film-making, cooking, football, bike-ability and self-defence.

Mr Jenkins, Deputy Headteacher

School Birthday Celebrations

On 29th of September, I was proud to be in the winning team of the school's 98th birthday. On this date, all year 7's in the school took part in challenges, some being incredibly difficult! We were all split into our house and then put into teams. This day was a great way to make new friends.

My highlight of the day was at the end of all the challenges – when we were finding out the winners. There was so much tension in the room, you could tell everyone wanted to win as each person in the winning team would get two houspoints each (and chocolate!). I am sure everyone wanted to get hold of them. It was a great way to start Woodford and it really did show how much fun Woodford County could be!

I am already looking forward to next year's celebration and the 100th birthday in 2019.

Myoori, 7E

Offsite School Celebrations Year 10 Bowling

On the 29th September 2017 we started the day off with the traditional school birthday parade. As always we enjoyed the school birthday celebrations and singing the school songs. After the parade, the Year 10s had a house maths challenge in which we were all mixed up into groups and had to try to successfully answer questions, which were not as easy as we first thought.

After having our lunch and getting changed we were on our way, by coach, to the bowling centre in Romford. The drive was full of chatter and excitement as some were excited for a new experience, having never been bowling before, and others excited for an opportunity to bowl with all their friends. When we got there we rushed to get our bowling shoes on and to start the games as soon as possible. When we got to a lane and we were amazed by the different coloured lights that set a fun atmosphere.

With upbeat music playing, we were all playing our hardest to win and beat our friends. As we were all consumed in the games, we did not realise how much time had passed. We were all sad to leave but all agreed it was one of the most memorable experiences we have had together.

Jashmiga and Anchala, 10H

Offsite School Birthday Celebrations

Year 9 Brick Lane & Spitalfields Market



On the 29th September 2017, the school's 98th birthday, Year 9 had the opportunity to go to Brick Lane and Spitalfields Market.

After a train ride and a walk, we arrived at Brick Lane. A long, narrow road filled with many shops to satisfy everyone's need. We were allowed to wander freely along the lane. Despite the many shops, our main mission was to find the bagel shop that the teachers had told us about.



Inside the bagel shop was welcoming and warm; it also smelt absolutely delicious. It looked homely and there was a large variety of foods, from sandwiches to samosas and of course bagels. Everyone seemed to have different bought different foods. Not only did it look appealing, it tasted amazing. There were many food stalls and plenty of shops filled with knick-knacks and eccentricities.

When we finished exploring Brick Lane, we quickly walked to Spitalfields Market- a shopaholic's dream. Along the sides included restaurants, make-up shops and stationary shops. This was an interesting market with lots to see.

Whilst on the visit we also carried out observations and completed tasks in order to find out more about the area, its history and cultural diversity. At the end of the day, we were all exhausted but it was worth it because we had the best time. If we ever had the chance to go again, we definitely would.

Luckshika and Gloria, 9H

Offsite School Birthday Celebrations (cont'd)

Year 11's Thriftwood Adventure

On School Birthday, 29th September 2017, Years 11 visited Thriftwood activity centre where we did teamwork and trust building exercises for the day. Some of these activities included: rock climbing, Jacob's ladder, archery, rifle shooting, sky high walking and abseiling. Unfortunately, the day got off to a wet start, but that didn't deter us from making the most of the activities.



Rifle shooting and Archery were new and empowering experiences – we learnt to prepare and shoot pellets/arrows safely at a target ten feet away; aiming at and hitting the target made us feel accomplished, as each attempt got closer to the bullseye and we could measure our progress. We were entrusted with the responsibility of not

distracting others and handling the rifles and bows appropriately.

At the same time, other groups of Woodford students were taking part in teamwork activities, such as climbing and Jacob's ladder. We worked together to ensure that our partners didn't fall down and girls had to belay for each other to prevent the climbers from falling and to help hoist them up the structure safely.

This was both physically demanding and mentally stimulating, and developed our teamwork skills as we had to constantly communicate with our peers to ensure they were comfortable, and to synchronise pulling the rope.



We were pushed out of our comfort zones when we took part in the sky high walking. This involved climbing a thirty foot rope ladder to make it onto a small platform where we had to clamber onto a log that extended horizontally with a frightening drop downwards, with only a safety rope to support us. After that, we were expected to lean back and trust our instructors to lower us down to the ground. This was an exhilarating experience as many faced their fear of heights and completely put their trust in the instructor. Amusingly, some girls adopted the Spiderman pose as they left the log and made their decent.



By lunchtime, we were exhausted, both physically and mentally, from what had been a very challenging day. We had experienced a completely new environment in the forest, had been challenged to do once in a life time activities, which had all left us more than ready for lunch. We ate in the pavilion and then we were on our way home, emboldened by our new experiences.

Gurmehar, 11W and Najmo, 11R

The French Video Conference



The French Video Conference was a thrilling experience for the fortunate year sevens who were picked at random to go. It enabled us to start communicating in French more and not feeling ashamed to make a mistake or more. The French Video Conference was held in the library on Tuesday lunchtimes. All the chosen year sevens would sit in front of the gargantuan television screen, waiting for their source of concealed inquisitiveness to be revealed when one of the teachers who run the conference would come in. When the teachers: Miss Gaskell and Miss Heath arrived, one of them would unmute the screen and we would be able to take turns in speaking and asking questions to the French students. The French pupils would start reciting long passages in English about themselves or anything similar to that. We would have a pen or pencil to show that we were the ones who were speaking which made it very easy to identify who was talking. Everybody said that it was a stimulating experience, one they would never forget. We got used to communicating in French and being able to speak in that language to somebody who speaks in French as their main language was something new to all of us. Throughout all the conferences, all the year sevens have been exuberant to start the lessons early so we would have more time to talk to the French children which goes to show that the French Video Conference was an experience that we would never forget!

Yashfi, 7D

'Antigone' at Greenwich Theatre



On a chilly late October's evening, the year 11 Classics cohort embarked on a trip from homely Woodford to Greenwich theatre in London. We had set out to watch an adaptation of Sophocles' *'Antigone'*, the 5th century BC Greek play we have been studying since the start of the term. Despite the cold, latecomers and train quests we reached the theatre on time, excited and very much intrigued about what we were going to watch. Some of us even managed to sneak a McDonald's meal on the way! Although we expected to delve into the ancient world of Thebes that evening, we were pleasantly surprised to see that the directors had transformed *'Antigone'* into a futuristic drama of city archives, holographic souls and drones! What was even more intriguing, was the fact that it was played by only four actors. As I had played the main protagonist character in a school play, it was refreshing to watch a performance that contrasted from our reading in class. This version of the play equally complemented our views; or rather changed our perspectives on the roles as family dynamics were emphasised greatly, and Antigone appeared less of a glory-grabber in the adaptation. We thoroughly enjoyed the play and I truly valued the opportunity to see *'Antigone'* in live action, thanks to the fantastic Classics department.

Anu, 11W

Jack Petchey Awards Evening



On the 30th of November, all of the 2016-17 Redbridge Jack Petchey Award winners took their place in Redbridge Town Hall to have their achievements recognised and receive their medallions.

The evening began at seven sharp, but even before that, the hall was alive and buzzing. Parents, carers, students, teachers and all their families appeared for this evening of celebration. My own arrival shocked me beyond words – I had expected a grand award ceremony, but not quite like this. The hall was alive with an excited energy and happy loudness and cheering overtook my senses.

We started with a warm, and a rather humorous introduction by our compère for the night, Philip Allinson. This was followed by a welcome from the Mayor of Redbridge, who wished us the best and praised our hard work. Philip returned once more and brought up the first schools to receive their awards.

Energised by the atmosphere as well as the slight apprehension of me getting up on stage – what if I fall or trip on my way to get my medal?

The ceremony was going by me in a fast blur and the award winner presentations were interspersed with performances including a stunning musical production from the Palmer Catholic Academy, leaving the audience stunned into silence momentarily then a thunderous applause.

It was nearing Woodford's time to accept their awards, looking around I could tell that most of us were shivering from a nervous excitement. I looked at the order of the schools set to receive their prizes and started a countdown until our turn.



Soon, the time came for my own name to be called; my legs shaking under the sheer level of noise from the cheers and claps combined. I went up, accepted my award and had my individual and group photo taken; it took place as a blur, what an exhilarating experience.

Another fantastic performance this time from Mayfield School, was followed by more schools, students, and teachers accepting their awards and the ever-inspiring story of Jack Petchey life; a story which encourages young people to believe in themselves and do something if it matters to them. The end of the evening came and everyone parted ways, having had a fantastic time and feeling inspired by the event.

Koushiki, 11H



Our PFA is Backing Innovation at Woodford

At the PFA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14th November, I was very pleased indeed to receive a cheque for a magnificent £25,000. These funds will support the introduction of our new **Innovation Lab** at Woodford. The details of this initiative are a closely guarded



secret. (Sugar paper on the doors and the drawing down of blinds conceal the mystery from curious girls in school.) The facility will support our promotion of STEM for girls and will be designed to mimic the creative environment of tech start-ups. We are aiming for an edgy and inspirational space for students to explore the full potential of computer programming and will be visiting the annual BETT Fair in January to ensure the technology in which we invest is the best available and entirely up-to-date.

Generously the PFA offered us a further £7000 in support of projects devised by colleagues which haven't yet directly benefited from the building programme. These include additional resources for the library, a printing press for Art, resources to support EPQ, extension of wi-fi coverage in the main building, new display boards and the sponsoring of plans (as yet under wraps) to celebrate the 250th birthday of the listed building we inhabit.

Our PFA support a whole range of school activities in addition to raising funds in creative and experimental ways. There is something for everyone. Girls enjoy sleepovers and discos here in school. Many staff and parents take advantage of theatre club visits and local residents are enthusiastic supporters of our very successful boot fairs. The PFA actively welcomes new members – please be in touch and get involved pfwchs@yahoo.co.uk.

Ms Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher

Goethe Institute German Debating Competition

Should a common language be used in the EU? This was the topic of debate for the prestigious Goethe Institute German debating competition. A new venture for the school, Woodford entered a team of 4 year 11 pupils to participate in this debate in November. Debating entirely in German against a sixth-form team from another London school and judged by two native German speakers associated with the Goethe Institute, the Woodford team showed themselves to be highly competent debating in German. As part of the preparation for the competition, the team members, alongside reserves and supporters attended regular training sessions with the German assistant (2017-2018), Anne Nickel. The team was also supported by Ms. Heeks who gave advice on the delivery of arguments.

The Woodford team was asked to argue in favour of the motion and the students presented a number of convincing arguments, whilst recognising the arguments raised by the opposition. Team captain Nazifa opened and closed the debate and eloquently introduced and summarised the main arguments and her team members. In an energetic and at times deliberately humorous delivery, Rashma effectively presented her points. Koushiki impressed the judges with her detailed speech and dealt with the opposing arguments incisively. Thakshija raised some further interesting arguments about the benefits of a common language. After a long and detailed discussion between the judges, it was announced that the opposing team had won. However, the decision had been very close and the Woodford team was praised for their performance.



Ms Heath, MFL Teacher

Formal Opening of The Centenary Centre

As a girls' school with a commitment to promoting STEM for girls we were really excited to take possession of our £11.5m new building in July. After a summer of equipping the place for the digital age the building was ready for use at the start of the academic year. On Friday 29 September 2017 (the School's 98th birthday) we celebrated its formal opening in anticipation of the school's 100th birthday on the same day in 2019. Key figures in Science, Medicine, and Psychology joined us and in the afternoon spoke to groups of our Sixth Form students about their work and research.



Fittingly it was a former student who opened The Centenary Centre for us. Harleen Kaur Deol, a Woodford girl (1984 – 1991) spoke to assembled guests about her career in women's healthcare (she's a consultant breast and reconstructive surgeon) and about the influence she recognised her Woodford schooling having on the person, and the professional she became. She addressed a lot of her comments directly to the students present, exhorting them to make the most of their chances and to recognise that while there is still ground to be gained in terms of gender representation in medicine and STEM, they themselves would be part of the generation to right the balance.

In my own address I spoke about how as educators we are dealing at all times with an interaction, a dialogue, between past and future. We learn from the past and look to the future.

The world for which we are preparing today's students will be a brave new one not just technologically but socially too, and in particular will be – must be 'made' to be – a very different place for them as women, nowhere more pressingly than in the field of Science and Technology. I suggested we need to be two-faced in the best possible sense – like the Roman God Janus, looking back and looking forward at the same time and in equal measure. And finally I drew my audience's attention to how in two wonderful buildings, situated on a single campus – the listed manor house that celebrates its 250th birthday next year, and the state-of-the-art resource in which we were then standing – our determination to do exactly that could be seen epitomised.

Other distinguished speakers who generously gave of their time to deliver our "Inaugural Lectures" included Professor Alan Armstrong, Head of Chemistry at Imperial College London, Dr Mary Mathias, Consultant in Paediatric Haematology and Professor Carolyn McGettigan, Professor of Psychology at Royal Holloway. Girls were appreciative of their expertise and breadth of experience and particularly in their interest in the aspirations of Woodford students.

We were pleased to be joined on the day by a wide variety of the people involved in some way in our expansion project: our school council and senior prefects, our neighbours at Haven House, the Rugby Club and the Higham's Residents' Association, our project managers, Local Authority colleagues and contractors. And also, as ever by our alumni, our PFA and by our governors, who were out in force for the occasion. Two representatives of the *Wolfson Foundation* attended our event, giving us an opportunity to express our gratitude for their very generous sponsorship of equipment for our new science facilities. The building – our building – made a very positive impression on all who saw it. It was gratifying to hear professors and lecturers describe the facilities as 'university standard' – the words of the original vision for the construction project echoed in the comments made by these academics. Such investment in the school is wholly positive, and our students will reap the benefits for years to come.



Ms Jo Pomeroy, Headteacher

Classics Visit to Rome 2017

Being able to experience Rome on this trip was incredible. It allowed us to not only see all the most popular tourist attractions in Rome - the Colosseum, the Sistine Chapel, (and even just the quaint Italian alleyways that make up the city), but also some sights we had not previously heard of, which we will now never forget.



The Trevi Fountain is one of the most famous fountains in the world and for good reason - upon entering the square where it was located, we were exposed to the majestic structure of stone sculptures rising up above clear blue water. Dramatically lit up at night as it was the first time we visited, there was an almost ethereal air. Crowds of tourists teemed around the huge fountain, desperate to get closer to the water, us amongst them, and we did manage to get right up to the fountain and even throw coins over our right shoulders into the water, as is tradition. All in all, it was quite magical, especially for our first evening in Rome, and it set a very high bar for the rest of our trip.

We however, were at no point disappointed. St. Peter's Basilica was, without a shadow of a doubt one of the most impressive sights I have ever seen. The church has cavernous domed ceilings, with almost impossibly intricate carvings and paintings covering it, and what at first appear to be vast wall-to-ceiling paintings, are actually mosaics, somehow making it even more beautiful.

We then went on to climb to the top of the Castel Sant'Angelo, giving us the very romantic view out over the River Tiber and much of Rome; it allowed us to actually appreciate where we were, and the beauty of this city.

Another highlight of the trip was visiting the underground catacombs in San Callisto, just outside Rome. Here we followed our hilariously entertaining tour-guide down into the dark labyrinth that was the catacombs, and were told tales of persecution, martyrdom and the strength of human will - it was quite sobering and surprisingly emotional for some of us.

Visiting the Piazza Navona however, was probably the best evening of the trip. Being able to wander around the large cobbled square, lined with small cafés, gelato in hand, and watching the array of street performers (from singers to flamethrowers), really just soaking in the Italian atmosphere was quite honestly, lovely.

There is no doubt that school visits like this have great educational benefit: you are able to visualise the places you have spent months learning about, seeing the sights in real life greatly aids memory and comprehension, and you can genuinely appreciate the history and heritage the culture you study is steeped in. But more than this, it brings the subject to life in a way not replicable in any classroom and also happens to be great fun in the process!



Ananya, Year 13

Cross Country



The Autumn term proved to be very successful for Woodford in a variety of Cross Country events.

The Woodford League competition consisted of three races, two of which took place at the very hilly Claybury and the other at Ashton Playing Fields. The year 7 and 8 team performed consistently well over the 3 weeks, with fantastic effort from everyone. The team went into the final race on 12th October in second place to Forest and came out triumphant. The year 9 and 10 team worked equally as hard trying to complete the race as quickly as possible and as a result won the team event.

Year 7 and 8: 1st Place

Year 9 and 10: 1st Place

The following girls put in particularly good overall performances:

Year 7 and 8

3rd Place: Katie Hunt

Year 9 and 10

5th Place: Laurelle Brant

6th Place: Shareen Nanan



On 18th October a Year 7, junior and inter team made their way to Wanstead Park for the Borough Cross Country. After excellent performances in the Woodford League students were particularly motivated to perform well in this race, despite being a very cold Autumn day. It was another close race around the lakes and Woodford gave us performances to be proud of.

Year 7: 8th Place

Year 8 and 9 (Juniors): 2nd Place

Year 10 and 11 (Intermediates) 3rd Place



Ms Harris, Head of PE

Staff Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day



Leaver's Gallery

Amanda Stone



In the last four years she has done much to shape and develop the role, taking responsibility for care plans, liaising with parents, leading on first aid and even contributing to PSCE. Fully committed to developing the service we offer she's led some distinctive and highly successful initiatives. It was her confidence that enabled us to purchase two defibrillators for the school, training staff annually on their use.

Similarly Amanda picked up on the British Heart Foundation CPR project, training no fewer than 820 life savers here at Woodford. The potential impact of this undertaking needs no explanation. In her clerical role Amanda has been invaluable support to our work experience and volunteering programme, taking a very personal interest in the girls and their achievements. And throughout she's been a proactive problem solver, grappling with the tricky and unglamorous issue of lost property, relishing daunting proof-reading challenges and, to be frank, taking charge of Christmas.

This pen portrait to date belies the levity that, just occasionally, exudes from Amanda. She has a ready sense of humour and a raucous, inclusive, uplifting laugh. She's supported a whole range of school events and been the backbone of homework club. She knows, it seems, everyone. All colleagues have had reason to value her support, and some on a daily basis. Sociable, through and through, she's been creative in celebrating births and birthdays, engagements and retirements - in fact any life event at all which merits a party. She leaves Woodford with some regret to prepare for possible relocation and to take her considerable skills and experience to a role focusing exclusively on student welfare. We wish her well. She'll be sorely missed at Woodford.

Since joining the staff at Woodford in 2008 as a Technology Technician Amanda has moved through a number of roles, providing invaluable support in each and becoming well known to colleagues, to girls and many parents. In Design Technology she made it her business fully to understand the educational aims of the department in order to support the Head of Department (then Jane Karavasili) and the students, as effectively as possible. A concurrent spell as a cover supervisor familiarised her with classroom routines and built her profile beyond the Product Design room. A restructuring of office services in January 2013 saw her full-time for the first time here and assuming the role with which now we associate her: Pupil Welfare Administrator. Her background in dental nursing and her very clear interest in the well-being of adolescents, suited her well for this demanding and unpredictable responsibility.

Woodford's 2017 Christmas Card is designed by Vishnavee Shanmugarajah, Year 12



The staff and students of Woodford County High School wish everyone in the wider school community a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.