

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH NEWSLETTER



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HEADLINES

Exactly a hundred years ago a novel was published in France which over the intervening century has radically influenced developments in writing and thinking not only in its country of origin but across the globe. Its author was Marcel Proust, and its English title is usually rendered as *'Remembrance of Things Past'*. I called Proust's work "a" novel, but it's really a sequence of seven, the first of which was what appeared in 1913. I also neglected to say that Proust had at that point to publish it privately at his own expense, after it had been turned down by the *Nouvelle Revue Française* on the advice of their 'house reader', the novelist André Gide, who later wrote to Proust apologising abjectly for his stupidity. Ah well. Fifty years later another expert at Decca Records would similarly reject the Beatles, on the grounds that "groups with guitars" had had their day.

'Remembrance of Things Past' could be described as the definitive exploration and celebration of the power of recollection: how firmly our memories are rooted in us, how little it takes to re-awaken them, and how profoundly they help to shape our being. Strictly translated from the French the title would be 'In Search of Time Lost' but the great paradox of Proust's work is that we never really lose that time at all.

Two former students have this year made contact to share their remembrance of things past. The first was a lady in her nineties who, over tea in September, regaled me with tales of Miss Gordon - the first headmistress of the school and clearly a force to be reckoned with. Learning that new housing at the bottom of the school site had been sanctioned by the council she had parents plant a tree each, lest "her girls" look out upon the suspended undergarments of the neighbourhood. The second alumna wrote long-hand from the Texas wolf sanctuary she herself had founded. Evacuation, emigration, ordination, and even decades as a visitor of prisoners on Death Row hadn't been enough to erase her school years from her memory –nor, apparently, a single word of the school song, which she quoted back to me in intimidatingly accurate detail.

What memories, then, will the academic year that is just closing leave behind? The school's 93rd birthday saw us, still jubilant from the London Olympics, brandishing a new banner and piloting novel activities: the Thriftwood Activity

The cast of "A View from the Bridge" won't forget the performance notes provided by Lucy Kirkwood, a playwright (and former Woodford head girl) who has had no fewer than three plays staged in the West End since she visited us in December. Snow in January gave Repton's gardens the contours and haunting hues of our earliest black-and-white photos and resulted in that rare thing, a school closure, sure to linger long in the memory. Spring was late and unconvincing but enlivened by our first BSL-signed concert, by a sumptuous Spring Production, and by a day of Superheroes, conquering sartorial self-consciousness to raise money for Haven House. The summer term brought boys to Woodford: first in the form of Olympic medal-winning gymnast Louis Smith and then in that of Ilford County's musicians who, at our inaugural joint concert, came to play cheek-by-jowl – or should that be jowl by cheek? - with Woodford girls. Celebration of the Arts continued with further innovation as, on a beautiful summer evening, festival came to Woodford. 'Awakening' – a joint venture by the Art, Technology and Music Departments – beckoned a relaxed audience from one performance space to another providing a wonderful showcase for the creativity of our students. And now the year has ended with the rhythm, colour and movement of our International Fiesta: a kaleidoscope of flamenco and carnival, tribal- and line-dancing, on the hallowed turf of the front lawn against the time-washed façade of our 18th Century manor house.

The students and staff for whom this summer marks a transition: to university, to new career challenges or to retirement take with them many memories alongside our good wishes. Their Woodford youth, inevitably, will become time past, but never time lost. Its influence will be evident, at some level, in everything they go on to do.

I take this opportunity at the end of a busy and productive year to thank everyone for what our combined efforts have made possible at Woodford. And I wish you all a happy, restful and restorative summer. Time spent in that way, after all the months of hard work, is not lost either.

Jo Pomeroy
Head Teacher

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History in Pictures



Thirteen Woodford historians, having just emerged from their A-Levels, have been back in school over the last fortnight, painting large-scale images for our History Department classrooms. Motivated, in their own words, by a wish "to give something back" they have designed pieces in three very different styles: black and white portraiture, caricature and a psychedelic piece. The



results are impressive and we are extremely grateful to have benefitted in this way from the artistry of

**Tasnim, Tharmaja,
Tasneem, Aleena,
Hafsa, Abida,**

Shironika, Tsara, Billie, Isha, Nyrah, Abinaya and Priyal.



Year 10 Bath Visit

A visit to the picturesque city of Bath on the 11th of July was without doubt a memorable experience for the Year 10 GCSE Latinists and Classicists. The sun was shining, the skies were clear and I'm sure the fact that we were missing a day of school played a part in our cheery mood! The very journey itself, despite being well over two hours long, seemed full of excitement. The endless crowds of rush hour on the Underground never ceased to amaze us, while the train ride from Paddington to Bath was lively and spirited.

Upon arriving at Bath Spa Railway Station, we were led by Mr. McClelland and Miss Douek to a park to have lunch. The wide expanse of lush grass dotted with vivid flowers was a pleasant view while we chatted, laughed and waited in anticipation for our tour of the great Roman Baths.

We were certainly not disappointed by the magnificent historical site. Immersed in our audio tour guides, we wandered through the Sacred Spring and the Roman Temple of *Aquae Sulis* (the Roman name for Bath). Everyone found something that personally fascinated them, whether it was the mysterious identity of the head surmounting the Temple or the Romans' method of



heating the baths known as the Hypocaust system.

After leaving the Roman Baths, we were given an hour to explore the city where we were delighted by the contrast between the quaintness of the streets and the presence of modern shops such as McDonalds and HMV. And, of course, the adventure of the day was when we frantically rushed back to the station, only to arrive a minute after our train to London had left!

From the layout of the Roman baths to the copies of Harry Potter translated in Latin found in the gift shop, everybody learnt something relevant to their Classics and Latin courses. The entire trip was not only enjoyable but educational and, all in all, a day well spent!

Sara Shaida 10H



Inspire a Generation!

From the Olympics, via Strictly Come Dancing to Woodford County High School! Star Louis Smith visited us on Thursday 9th May. He arrived to a warm welcome by many students waiting for his arrival.

Standing for the UK Youth Parliament elections meant I had to choose three manifesto issues that were realistic, that I could tackle in a year were I to be elected. One of my pledges was to invite inspirational people to the London Borough of Redbridge and its schools.



After being elected at the end of February, I started trying to achieve this pledge. I emailed many inspirational people; Lord Sugar, Tom Daley, Colin Morgan, Boris Johnson and many more. I asked Mo Farah but he could not attend our school as his family reside in the USA, however I was pleased to receive an autograph from him. I continued inviting people as I thought that I definitely wanted somebody to come to my school and that is when I invited Louis Smith.

I received an email from Louis Smith's agent regarding a school tour and that they would consider our school. I was thrilled by the reply and excited that we had a chance of Louis Smith attending.

I got called out of chemistry. to hear the news that his appearance was going to happen! From then on, I was so excited, every second and minute of the day!

I prepared by organising a question and answer session with Mrs Greenfield and discussing the plan of the day with Miss Bufton. We were all very excited and we couldn't wait till we announced the visit to the school.

The day had arrived! I couldn't wait! Louis Smith arrived to cheers from Woodford Students waiting outside the Sports Hall. He attended three different sessions. He first spoke to GCSE and A – Level PE Students. They asked him questions that helped them with their coursework and sport they do. They had a chance to take photos with him and receive his autograph. He then went and gave an inspirational speech to the year 9 and 10 students. They performed for him and in return he gave the students who performed some tips to improve. He then demonstrated a cartwheel and before the students left he showed them a backflip off of the vault box. He did the same with the year 7 and 8 students but this time he also sung "Boyfriend" by Justin Bieber to them. This ended with screams. He also showed the students his medals and this added to the great atmosphere.



Overall, I was very pleased with how the day went and I enjoyed every bit of it! I hope everyone else at Woodford did too! I would just like to finish off by thanking Mrs Greenfield, the Leadership Team and the PE Department for allowing this visit to happen!

Sabah Mohammed 9W

Visit to New Spitalfields Fruit and Vegetable Market



In May the year 10 GCSE food technology students went on a trip to learn about food that is available locally to us. We started (very early!) at New Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market. Breakfast was kindly laid on by our lovely host Jan Hutchinson the Chief Executive of the Corporation of London Trader's Association. We were given a brief history of the market which has the highest number of wholesale traders of any horticultural market in the United Kingdom and the continual specialisation by wholesalers in exotic fruit and vegetables provides the greatest choice of products of any Market in Europe. The Market Hall houses 121 trading units for wholesalers dealing in fruit, vegetables and flowers. Modern facilities in the Market Hall include cold storage rooms, ripening rooms and racking for palletised produce. The girls met several traders who clearly loved working in the market. We were then met by blue badge tour guide Rachel Kolsky who told us so much about the local area and its recent development covering the Olympic park, Hackney Wick and the canals that lead to our next destination Forman's Smokery.



We were given a warm welcome there by Darren Matson and then all kitted out with the latest fashion in fish preparation wear (see photograph below). We went around the Smokery and were able to witness the different stages of preparing the salmon from selection, filleting and curing to smoking and hand carving (Darren Matson is the Guinness world record holder for carving smoked salmon.) All in all the trip was a huge success with the students; they saw first-hand experiences of fruit and vegetable market trading and the meticulous process of preparing the finest smoked salmon.



**Miss Athman and Mrs Rhodes
Food Technology Department**



Did you know that this visit, made us the very first Secondary school to visit New Spitalfields Market on an educational trip.? A photo of our students features on New Spitalfields Market website within their education section.

Year 12 Theatre Trip



Elizabeth Chan as Liuli, Benedict Wong as Zhang Lin and David K.S. Tse as Zhang Wei in Lucy Kirkwood's "Chimerica" at the Almeida Theatre. London.

On the evening of the 23rd June, a group of ten Y12 students met Ms Faid and myself at the Almeida theatre in Islington to see Lucy Kirkwood's latest play Chimerica.

The play is based on Kirkwood's imagined story of the American journalist who took the iconic photograph of a man obstructing a tank in Tiananmen Square during the anti-government protests in Beijing in 1989. Ten years later the American returns to China on a quest to find the "Tank Man." It is a witty, poignant and thought-provoking play which explores a wide range of issues including the relationship between China and America, the threats to our environment and the role of the photo journalist.

According to our students, "It really made you think," and "It was a welcome change from romantic subjects."

The young writer Lucy Kirkwood is an ex-Woodford student which gave the play an added interest to our students.



Ms. Thorp
English Department

A Review of Britten's 'Death in Venice'

As a perfect introduction to our A2 course, year 12 music students set off to the English National Opera to



watch the company's latest performance of Britten's "Death in Venice".

An opera not only renowned for its controversial plot line, but also its technically complicated score, it was indeed a memorable outing.

The plot centres on an elderly writer (Aschenbach) seeking inspiration in Venice to liberate himself from his writer's block. After developing a keen interest in a young boy of 15, Aschenbach is torn between his personal feelings and the morality of society. A true Britten tragedy, Aschenbach eventually dies of a cholera epidemic and his romantic interest returns home.



The trip was a great success - an introduction to the world of opera and it will certainly be of much use later on in our A Level course.



Zofia Duffy 12KH

Laser Tag at the Summer Fair



For the first time in many years the sun shone brightly for the PFA Family Fun Day on Sunday 30 June 2013. A colourful range of activities greeted visitors to the site. After surveys carried out by the PFA as to what girls would like to see at the Fair, attractions including laser tag, bucking bronco, trampolines and a photo booth were bought in at significant cost while care was taken not to over price these attractions. Supplementing these were a variety of other fair attractions and a strategically sited ice cream van. Those who got beyond these could browse the range of stalls in the hall and the catering on offer in the dining room and on the terrace. A particular hit with Woodford girls was the opportunity to pelt a teacher with wet sponges – Mr Utting is thanked for his sportsmanship in this regard.



Footfall was significantly lower than one might have expected given the surveys, planning and promotion of this event but those who supported the Fair enjoyed a convivial event. We count ourselves as lucky to have Parents and Friends who work so tirelessly in support of the school. These events are designed primarily to raise additional funds for the school as well as to give parents an opportunity to come to the school to build informal relationships with the school and each other. The hosting of these events takes a considerable amount of time and effort and the PFA would like to thank all those involved beforehand, during and after the event as well as all those who attended. However such events may not take place in the future unless more parents and students attend. Such events are increasingly rare in secondary schools and it would be disappointing to see such events fade away into the archives of Woodford County High School.

Jo Pomeroy
President Woodford PFA

Junior Mathematical Challenge

At the end of April all Year 7 and 8 students participated in the Junior Mathematics Challenge. The challenge is run nationwide by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust and is aimed at the top third of pupils in Year 8 or below in England and Wales. Between them Woodford girls gained twenty-one Gold awards, fifty-two Silver and sixty-one Bronze certificates. A very fine achievement.

Divya Patel in 7W received a Gold certificate and was also awarded 'Best in Year7' scoring 99 out of a possible 135 marks. The award for 'Best in Year 8' and the overall award for 'Best in School' went to Tejal Malde in 8W, together with a Gold award. Tejal scored 117 marks and was invited by the UKMT to take part in the next round of the challenge, The Junior Olympiad. This took place in June and Tejal was required to sit a two hour written paper consisting of some very demanding problems. For her efforts she has received a 'Certificate of participation'. Our congratulations go to all our award winners in both Years 7 and 8 and well done to all participants.

Mrs Y Thompson
Head of Mathematics



Hand Printed Bags

It sounds simple, but is a lot more stressful and gruelling than just putting two pieces of cloth together. First, before we even got to the sewing, we were introduced to two different printing techniques, both equally challenging, one of which we'd choose to use to create the designs on our bags. The first was lino printing which involves the use of a small square of green rubber and round-scoop edged cutting tools. The layers of the print would be built on by taking away more and more of the surface of the rubber, a concept which I at first found hard to grasp.



I thought maybe the second technique would be simpler. But screen printing, requiring the use of pre-made stencils for every layer of the print, which had to be elaborately placed onto a mesh-screen to print out.

The best part of printing, mainly because of its simplicity, was being allowed to roll ink all over our art tables without being reprimanded for it. As soon as we got our pieces of canvas printed, we began to sew them together, not with plain needle and thread but with the mechanical wonders that are sewing machines. After we (aided by Miss.Campbell) set them up and began sewing, our bags eventually began to take shape. Seeing my final hand-made piece, was rather satisfying as I could see the outcome all those hours I spent perfecting my designs and the lunch-times spent printing and sewing. Looking at everyone else's bags I couldn't help but admire how they, managed to create bags so stylishly wearable that I would probably have paid good money to buy one.

Jahba Nawar 10R and Kausar Anan 10R

Five Little Kittens



In June we found that a rather lovely tabby cat had chosen Woodford as the birth place for her litter of five kittens. Even tucked well away from danger under an external stair case, the new

family soon attracted the admiration of girls and the attention of those of us who work in the dining room next door. Both the cat (Maggie) and the kittens came home with me until all six of them were found homes. I will be sorry to see them go but am glad to report such happy outcomes for our feline family.

Diane Holden
Kitchen Assistant



White Socks' - Our New School Magazine



I am pleased to announce the launch of our new school magazine – ‘White Socks’ – named after a distinguishing feature of Woodford Girls uniforms. Our magazine is managed and produced on line and we aim to have our first edition available on Fronter. The editorial

team consists of a group of sixth formers who also plan and design the layout of the magazine. Editing a magazine is a challenging task and what we enjoyed the most was making decisions as a team and being creative in order to make the magazine appealing. There is an immense amount of talent here at Woodford County High and we feel that this is reflected in the content of the magazine. The magazine includes a wide variety of work, ranging from stories and poems to newspaper articles. We received many contributions from students of all ages and we are hoping to include work from members of staff in later issues. Another one of our aims for the coming year is to have the content of the magazine cover more subject areas and include a greater range of themes.

Our team would like to thank all students who contributed as there was a very high quality of work submitted, which we thoroughly enjoyed reading.

We hope you will enjoy ‘White Socks’, too!

Sabha Mahmood Y12, Editor-in-Chief

Peer Supporters Summer Bazaar



Woodford County High School pupils and Sixth Form Peer Supporters enjoyed a fun filled lunchtime raising money for charity on a sunny day in early July. Delicious cakes were baked and eaten, the contents of mysterious boxes were correctly guessed, and teachers were “sponged” in the name of a good cause. Ms Howarth, Dr Ashraf, Mr Mackie and Mr Utting stepped forward to brave the watery missiles. Over £155 pounds was raised in total, that’s an impressive amount of sponging and cake eating in one lunch hour. Peer Supporters volunteer to befriend younger peers in the school. They decided to donate the money raised to MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION – a children’s charity with the sole aim of granting wishes to critically ill children aged between 3 – 17 years of age.

Thank you to everyone who took part.

Mrs Liebeskind
Volunteer Peer Support Co-ordinator

*Picture on right:
The School Magazine in
1938.*



TEFAL Competition



On Thursday 11th July, we had an amazing opportunity to take part in the TAFAL (Teach A Friend A Foreign Language) competition held at Woodbridge High School. At the

competition there were people from different cultures, schools and age groups. In total there were 49 different pairs, representing 19 different languages.

As part of the competition, we had to perform a dialogue in a language one of us spoke at home. One partner taught the other the language. We did a presentation in Urdu about buying clothes and we managed to learn it off by heart. We also prepared a stall about Pakistan and Urdu and had food, clothes, books and Mehndi for the other participants to look at.

Our favourite bit about the TAFAL competition was going round the stalls, learning different languages and about their cultures and trying new food. There were also some performances including songs in Spanish, Turkish and German.

The TAFAL competition was a very enjoyable experience and we would recommend it to everyone.

Esher Bansal 7H and Surayia Bilal 7H

Eurostar Winner



Saba Quereshi (11H) is very clear about the need to promote sustainable living and so when she came across a competition on the website of the “Young Person’s Trust for the

environment” (www.ypte.org.uk) entitled “Have your say on sustainability” she went right ahead and entered. And won! The video she submitted voicing her views on the topic can be accessed



here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8a9m8b5oKcM>

Saba’s prize – a trip via Eurostar to Brussels – is booked for the very beginning of

September. Her performance also won the school a £250 technology voucher

for which we are very grateful. We hope Saba enjoys her trip and we encourage her to keep having her say on this important topic.

Nurturing the Authors of the Future!

This year, some of our most talented Year 13 and Key Stage 3 writers came together in a creative writing workshop, where the younger girls could be seen as experts in their own right, sharing ideas and peer critiquing with the experienced input of the older girls, and where they could be encouraged to take risks and to experiment.

Ruta Tolstosejevaite, who was responsible for overall organisation, says:

We asked what they wanted to work on and all of them mainly focused on fictional writing.

The girls created some amazing pieces of writing that we got them to comment on and give feedback to the writer. We looked at what they find interesting in stories and the books they read and how that can be used in their writing.

Towards the second half of the year we thought of creating a piece that all of them had an input in. We [...] created the background of a story together. The girls used ideas they got from books they had read and combined very interesting research. It was quite a challenge and despite not being able to finish it, we had lots of fun talking about the story, the characters and the books we read.

We aimed to create pieces of writing that they could look back on and see how far they have come over the year and in years to come. Also to encourage them to continue.

Many thanks to

**Ruta Tolstosejevaite 13BQ ,
Kamile Jankauskyte 13GB
Zeena Daley 13PU,**

for being so generous with their time and energy.

**Ms Faid
English Department**

My time at Eton College Summer school



As I stood there with a first edition Shakespeare folio in my hands, I couldn't believe that it was real. But on the Eton College Summer School it was in fact a reality, and it was moments like this that made me so glad I had applied and been accepted onto the course. However, it wasn't an easy or relaxing break from school – it was intense. As an English student I had the largest workload compared with the other subjects and every night I would fall into bed exhausted after completing an essay or set reading. Our first session was at 9:30am and our last ended at 7pm, but no one stopped working until after 10:30pm and even then that was extremely rare.

I've made it seem as if Eton was a gruelling 10 day torture, but that would be far from the truth. Despite the hard work, everyone enjoyed the extreme intensity of it. On the last day no one wanted to leave. On Saturday to make up for working in the morning we had a barbecue on a private island on the Thames own by Eton college (yes it was as posh as it sounds!). On Sunday evening we had fun sessions where we learnt something not associated with our subject, in my case, magic. On our last night we had dinner in our subject groups with our teachers, which was actually a lot more fun than it sounds. As English students, we were taken down to London to visit the Globe theatre. We saw a production of The Tempest, had a tour of the theatre and a lecture about the Tempest, one of the texts we studied.

I am sad that the summer school has ended, but I have some amazing memories and I have made so many new friends. If I had the chance I would redo it in a heartbeat and I would encourage future 6th formers to take advantage of opportunities like this.

Hafsa Mughal 12 BM

Hafsa is the latest of our 6th formers to win a place at the Eton Summer School 2013

Visual Arts Course Launched.

Over the past three terms a new and exciting course has been running across all key stage 3 classes. Visual Arts is an opportunity for students to explore and learn all about digital media. Focusing on digital photography and image manipulation software. Students not only learn the process and language of digital Art and creating imagery but more importantly the course has encouraged independence and divergent thinking. The tasks set are often open ended and require team work and partnerships to work imaginatively and excitingly to produce unique conclusions. Both Mr Abbott and Miss Campbell are very pleased with the progress made on the course and the creativity on show.

In year 7 students have explored "Metamorphosis", Year 8 the topic is "Distortion" whilst all year 9's have undertaken the task of producing 'fashion editorials' and designing perfume bottles for fashion shoots.



**Mr Abbott
Head of Art**

Year 10 Graphics trip to New Designers Exhibition



On July the 4th, year 10 graphics students visited the New Designers exhibition at the Business Design Centre in Islington. The exhibition showcased the work of over 3,500 of the most talented, newly graduated designers over a period of 2 weeks. Year 10 GCSE graphics students



were given the opportunity to see the wide range of design courses available and the types of products that design students could create in the future, allowing us to see parts of the graphics industry that many had not yet experienced. Each exhibitor had a separate area in which they displayed some of their best pieces of work and gave out various items which visitors could use to contact them if they were interested in their work. The wide range of products on display at the exhibition, from architectural models to animations, meant that many students used the experience as inspiration for possible designs that they could create themselves. Overall, the exhibition allowed us to see the level of work to which we could aspire in the future and the experience was found to be enjoyable and very useful.

If you would like to find out more, please visit:



www.newdesigners.com

Amani Shamas 10W

Greece



It was a dark, damp, freezing morning when a small band of about 30 Woodford Girls set out on a journey to Greece, a nation whose history stretches on far back beyond the Common Era. As soon as we had arrived and checked in at the hotel, we went to discover the capital city of Athens, so full of antiquity that you could see the Temple Of Zeus directly from your tram seat. The next morning we headed out for Delphi, the ancient site of Apollo, Olympian God of music, light, medicine, healing and prophecy (as well as too many other things to list). It was here that Delphic Oracle, manifested most famously through the priestess Pythia, would foretell prophecies of war, misfortune but also occasionally prosperity. After descending from the heights of Delphi, we travelled to Cape Sounion, the very spot where King Aegeus, father of the Athenian hero Theseus, tragically leapt off the cliff, giving his name to the waters below: The Aegean Sea.

On our third day in Greece, we explored the Acropolis, on top of which lies the Parthenon built on the sacred Hill of Athena, Goddess of Wisdom and Arts and Patron of Athens (also personally my favourite classical goddess). As it is so familiar to anyone with even a mild interest in Classical Mythology, it really is an exhilarating experience to stand at the very top of this site and gaze upon what are the monuments of a civilisation. Even as you look out to the amazing panoramic view of Athens, you see a modern-day city with ancient foundations. Leaving Athens, we transferred to Tolo, a picturesque sea-side town, close to Mycenae. This was the legendary city of Agamemnon, who was leader of the Greek Army in the Trojan War (the events of which are most notably written by the poet Homer in the Iliad). For me, the archaeological discoveries at Mycenae, bring more meaning to all these myths and heroes, it suggests that there might be some physical proof of their existence. It is one thing to study places and people and see pictures of them and memorise facts about their lives, but completely another to visit them, experience them and to know that they were real.

Jahba Nawar 10R

Fiesta!



Our second co-curricular project was international in scope and festive in flavour. Students and teachers worked in house teams to explore the culture and dance of their assigned country in preparation for a showcase event in the afternoon. **Highams** experimented with African recipes and designed tribal shields and masks which acted as the backdrop for a display of dance, singing and drumming. **Newton** made colourful fans and maracas as accessories for a dramatic display of Spanish flamenco. The scope of **Warner's** presentation of North American culture was enormous ranging from indigenous batik designs for fabric to line-dancing en masse, ably led by members of the administration staff. South American carnival set the mood for **Repton's** activities; an impromptu band, a drumming troupe and dancers in peacock-like wings and skirts coming together in the sort of display one might anticipate for Rio 2016.





On a day of uncertain weather, it was difficult at times to distinguish the aural evidence of drumming rehearsals from the thunder rolling menacingly in the distance. We kept our nerve, however, and the show case was performed on the front lawn to a full audience of students, staff and visitors. *Fiesta* was a feast of colour, movement and sound. Students who had so evidently enjoyed their own activities were equally appreciative of the creative output of others and we all enjoyed seeing just what could be achieved.

Mrs Turnbull
I.C.T

Fiesta!



Good news from the Music Department!

Two of our year 10 GCSE students have made great musical progress this term:

Alexandra Prellberg (10H) has been invited to take part in the Purcell School of Music's Composition Summer School during the summer holiday

Caitlin Robinson (10H) has made it through to the second round of the Mayor of London's 'Big Busk' competition, and will be competing over the summer to win a chance to record her songs professionally.

Musicians of the Month – May-June:

May

Year 7 Maaria Arfeen

For a great debut performance with the Brass Band

Year 8 – Aarti Amin

Commitment to the Senior Orchestra and lots of practice for the joint concert

Year 9 – Sunita Ramani

For excellence in academic music

KS4/5 – Jenny Essery

For ongoing commitment to musical activities

June

Year 7 – Natalie Vriend 7H

For impressive achievement in music lessons throughout the year

Year 8 – Tejal Malde 8W

For academic excellence in music

Year 9 – Inova Lee 9N

For outstanding achievement in music

KS4/5 - Subangi Dhanabalasingham

For exceptional progress in GCSE Music

WCHS Brass Band in the Redbridge Brass Festival

Back in May, the WCHS Brass Band were invited to take part for the first time in the Redbridge Brass Festival – an exciting concert featuring brass bands from around the borough, and culminating in a joint performance of a piece by a local composer, Chris Wilcox, featuring over 200 musicians! The evening was a great success and enjoyed by audience and performers alike – and the Brass Band are now working towards their target of being 'as good as Wanstead' by next year. Watch this space!



Woodford and Ilford in harmony



The beginning of May saw the first ever joint concert between the choirs and orchestra of Woodford and Ilford County High Schools, which took place in our school hall. With a mixed-voice choir plus a full-sized symphony orchestra combining students and staff from both schools (led ably by Hanna Procter, 8H), the audience was treated to Purcell's 'Come Ye Sons of Art' and an excerpt from Vivaldi's 'Gloria', before an element of competition was introduced as ensembles from both schools took to the stage. The wind group and barbershop choir from Ilford performed a variety of light music, while Woodford's newly formed flute ensemble and senior choir held their own with polished performances of music from Bach to Bernstein. The joint orchestras performed the slow movement from Shostakovich's Second Piano Concerto, with Ilford soloist Denis Ilyushenko, before the grand finale of Berlioz's 'March To The Scaffold' from Symphonie Fantastique – an exciting work which demonstrated the impressive force of the large orchestra.

The evening was a resounding success and a testament to the hard work and impressive musicianship of the students from both schools. Plans are afoot for a return visit to Ilford in the future!

**Ms Hasler
Music Department.**



Woodford Goes to Wellcome



Wellcome Collection is a place where Art meets Science, often with unexpected results. On the 26th June 2013, 31 “incurably curious” Psychology students from Woodford County High made their way to Euston to see the “Souzou” exhibition. A group show featuring the work of forty-six individuals with mental health and learning difficulties across Japan. Unlike “art therapy” in the UK, which combines art making with psychotherapy for individuals in psychiatric settings, the Japanese approach has no strict endpoints or an emphasis on “getting better”, and takes place in large multipurpose social care centres. Several of the exhibiting artists have attended these agenda-free programmes for decades. The results of this approach were varied and impressive both in their scale and quality. Above all, Norimitsu Kokubo’s fictional cityscapes ranging across the globe, built from fantasy and fiction, as well as stories and images gleaned from newspapers and the web, were most striking. Kokubo, just seventeen, works in a tiny apartment where he can unfurl only a small portion of his ten-metre paper scroll at a time. His work encased in a purpose-built box over 8 metres in length, was made especially for the exhibition. Woodford’s Psychology students were impressed to see his strange and chaotic vision of the world, fully unfurled in London for the first time.

Mrs Liebeskind
Head of Psychology

Mini Apprentice Project

GCSE Graphics students have just finished an apprentice themed project. Within groups of four we had to choose a project manager and then work in teams to



develop an environmentally responsible product and deliver a pitch to Lord Sugar (Miss Karavasili) along with her assistants (Mrs Stone, Mr Abbot, Ms Bruce and Ms Pomeroy).

Every group decided to come up

with unique and creative products which allowed each group to differ from others. People delivered pitches accompanied by concept boards or PowerPoint presentations. We were only given 5 hours for this but using the organisational and creative skills of different members of the group, all groups were able to finish within the given deadline. Not only was this project fun but it allowed us to relax from all the coursework this year!

Emayanga Emayakumaran 10 H

You’re hired!

The Graphics group rose to the challenge of the Mini-Apprentice project where students, in groups of three or four, had to develop a current product design or create a new product using sustainable materials. For example, one group researched into the packaging of an Easter egg



and they noticed that there is a lot of unnecessary packaging. The group transformed the design of the packaging so that once the egg has been eaten it can be reused as a money box. Another example is the “Mini-Eco” brand of compact make-up. The idea behind it was to have an under-used but renewable resource such as bamboo to hold a wide variety of make-up. The project enabled students to think about the money aspect of product and to think about how it will be manufactured in the real world. Above all, it developed students’ skills in working well as a team.



Nita Mandalia 10R and Nisha Mandalia 10N

Sixth Form Enrichment & Preparation for Higher Education 2012/13

At Woodford we recognize that it is no longer enough simply to do well in academic subjects in order to secure a place on a competitive course at University or a good job. University admissions tutors and workplace recruitment officers are now increasingly looking for more.

Students need to show a genuine interest and commitment to their studies that goes beyond the A level syllabus and to develop an intellectual curiosity and independent learning style that will help them adapt quickly to university life and employment. For this reason we actively promote a diverse range of enrichment opportunities and encourage our students to take advantage of them. An enormous amount of curriculum enrichment takes place in a normal school year and to give you a flavour of the types of activities our 6th form students have taken part in this academic year I have listed some of them here (in no particular order):

- UCAS convention in London – all Year 12 attended February 2013
- Voluntary Service Programme for all Year 12 students
- QMC Competitive courses: 10 nominated students joined by students from other Redbridge schools.
- Insight into Law at QMC
- Villiers Park – week long subject residentials
- Oxbridge preparation day in collaboration with other Redbridge schools
- Uniq summer school at Oxford
- Law taster courses at Oxford and Cambridge
- Eton Summer School – 2 week residential
- Social Mobility Foundation – 2 students on this 2013/14
- York University summer school



- Eton Choral course
- Women in Science Residential at Cambridge
- London University taster courses including days at QMC for Biology, Chemistry and Psychology students
- Essex University summer school
- Journalism competition run by local newspaper syndicate across London
- Insight into Medicine
- QMC- Comparative Literature master class
- Master classes at Cambridge & London
- Interbank event organised by Stafford Long graduate recruitment specialists
- Insight into careers in the city – networking event
- KPMG – careers in accountancy
- Barclays school leavers programme

**Ms Fernhamm
Head of Sixth Form.**



Summer Production 2013 –
'Thoroughly Modern Millie'



It was neat indeed that a cast member who advertised our 31st Summer Production to the parents of incoming Year 7 students could report that she'd been in primary school uniform herself when first introduced to things theatrical at Woodford. Performances of *"Thoroughly Modern Millie"* in 2006 and 2013 have acted as book ends to her school years at Woodford.

The New York of the 1920s with its fizzy, high energy nightlife of flapper dresses, jazz and the modish Charleston, draws to it a succession of young women, eager to be part of it and to try their fortunes as actresses, singers and secretaries in a society where gender stereotypes seem to be loosening. Millie cuts an apparently vulnerable figure on arrival in her sensible coat, suitcase in hand, the city scape behind her so visual a contrast from the Kansas whence she has come. Such an impression is quickly dispelled, however, as, eyes raised to the skyline, she rips up her return ticket. Herkiran Kambo was superbly cast in the lead role, Millie's self-assurance and defining ambition visible in



her strong stage presence and audible in the clarity and control of an impressive singing voice.



Victim to an opportunist mugger, Millie is directed by reluctant Samaritan Jimmy Smith to Hotel Priscilla, popular with impecunious young actresses. Newspaper stories about the operation of a white slave trade go almost unnoticed as Millie teams up with the place's most unlikely resident, socialite Miss Dorothy (Esme Adams-Walsh). As set as Millie is on seeing "how the other half lives", the two girls

(well contrasted in these performances) celebrate the serendipity which has led them to meet in the middle.

Millie's master plan (marrying the boss) makes employment a pre-requisite and provides the context for a lively



and beautifully synchronised duet as Trevor Graydon (Holly Bedeau) puts Millie through her paces taking dictation, a skill (and a song) to be reprised at the denouement of the plot.



Meanwhile, back at Hotel Priscilla, the villain of the piece, having adopted an oriental disposition to suit her purpose, uses suspect green tea, chloroform passed off as soy sauce, a laundry trunk and couple of misguided Chinese immigrants to



supply the demand of the white slave trade. I'm reliably told by audience members who had no need of subtitles that the Cantonese of Ching Ho and Bun Foo (Sara Shuaib and Grace Dillon) was a credit to us. The same cannot be said for the connivance and scheming of the manipulative Mrs Meers, played with masterful comic timing by Lara Janes-Walton.



The now smitten Jimmy ventures a kiss and sends a confused Millie to her new role model, Muzzy, for some girl-to-girl advice. The moral of the tale is delivered: when it comes to marriage, it's love that matters not money.

Green glass, we're told, is as good a gift as emeralds if a gift of love.

The Romeo and Juliet echo aside, Jimmy's declaration of his feelings – from a window ledge high above the New York streets - provides an oasis of emotional truth in a play where other men's instant infatuation sees them behaving like the characters of a Broadway musical. Eleanor Bridger's finely judged and intelligent performance was compelling throughout. Romantic attachments and the moral of the piece determined, attention turns to the unexplained disappearance of Miss Dorothy and within moments our like-minded couple have alighted upon the involvement of Mrs Meers who, satisfyingly, is then hoist with her own petard as she tries to send "orphan-girl" Muzzy packing to the orient, stuffed unceremoniously into a trunk of dirty linen. All serious threats to happiness now exploded, a happy ending is achieved with dizzying speed by the revelation that Jimmy is in fact Herbert J. Van Hossmere III – Muzzy's stepson and Miss Dorothy's brother. The frog is in fact a prince; the green glass an emerald.

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" is a period piece, and its period was ably evoked for us on the Woodford stage last week. Individual performances were of a very high calibre indeed, and supported by a chorus of younger students choreographed to evoke the era. Astonishing set changes were managed on a limiting stage. The hotel lift, cajoled into action merely by tap dancing feet, ascended before our very eyes to reveal, only seconds later it seemed, the 12th floor hallway of Hotel Priscilla. On-stage police cells accommodated the revellers caught in the speakeasy, their mug shots having been taken on a camera whose exposure time (and delayed flash) testified to the detail of this show's direction.

A very demanding score and its calls on jazz instruments made this a challenging production for a school orchestra. Conducted by Ms Hasler and accompanied by Mrs Carpenter, our musicians rose to the task, providing a lively and responsive soundtrack to the show.

While the trumpets and saxophones led the dance numbers it was down to the strings (particularly the cellos)



to intimate the intentions of Mrs Meers as she worked her way through the vulnerable occupants of the 12th floor.

A production on this scale is no small undertaking and we are indebted to the team of staff, former staff and pupils, led by Miss Hall and Miss Chapman, with the vision and tenacity to take it on.

Ms Jo Pomeroy



Awakening - Creative Arts showcase.



On a beautiful July evening, parents, staff, students, governors and guests of Woodford were welcomed to the inaugural summer showcase. Awakening - a festival of the Arts and all things creative.

Guests were treated to a vast variety of vibrancy, colour and sound as students entertained with song, dance, music and Art work. A refreshing plethora of beverages, savoury snacks and cakes were on offer.



Awakening was the first time the Art, Music and Technology departments all showcased their creative outputs collectively and the sun warmed the backs of the audiences who supped on pineapple and orange mocktails whilst the brass band delighted. It was clear to see a great time was had by one and all.

The most amazing thing about the show is that the entire project from conception to reality was all the work of the sixth form Art and Music students, who said:

"The experience of creating the summer show in less than three weeks felt like being on the Apprentice, but we learnt many new skills and we pulled together and as a team we are so proud of the success of the show".

Yr 12 Art students.

Art, Technology and Music Departments



Berlin trip



On the 17th of May, a mixture of German and Art students arrived at Heathrow airport to begin our trip to Berlin. The four days we spent in Germany were packed with historical visits, exploring various art museums, practising speaking the German language and having a great time.

We were lucky enough to see the history of Germany as we visited the Berlin wall and Checkpoint Charlie and learned of the walls' importance during the time when Berlin was divided. We also learnt of some of the many stories of people trying to escape East Berlin or leave West Berlin to find their family in the East as many had been separated when the wall was first built. Imagine going to sleep one night and waking up with a wall separating you from the rest of your friends and family.



We stayed in a large youth hostel on a colourful street in Berlin where we spent most of our time in the lobby (the only place in the hostel that received Wi-Fi) calling and texting our friends and family to tell them of our experiences as well as uploading MANY photos to instagram to let the world see the great time we were having.



Perhaps the best part of the experience was on the last day, when we were about to leave. Something about leaving this beautiful city made us realise how great it really was as we travelled to a nearby park and photographed a

stream that trickled down a rocky hill producing a breath-taking fountain.

As both an art and German student I felt that I had been lucky to be able to fully appreciate the activities we did. However, regardless of which subject we study, I am sure that our time in Berlin was a great experience for all.

Hawa Sankoh 10W

School's Gardening Initiative

During the last year, many students from each year took part in the school's gardening initiative. This included each house being given their own plot of land to tend. Many a lunchtime, groups of students have been seen trooping down to the teachers garden with a trowel and spade. Vegetables, fruit and flowers have been grown. From sowing the seeds to weeding and deadheading, it has been a very rewarding experience. It has taught responsibility and determination.

No matter how many foxes desecrated the garden, we Woodford students still ploughed on. Hopefully, this project will continue in the next school year and be just as successful



Anjum Ali 7W

Being Good Neighbours

Haven House, a hospice which cares for life-limited children, is our neighbour on The High Road. While over the course of the year we raise funds for a wide variety of charities at home and abroad, we have also this year set ourselves a new challenge of making a donation to the hospice on the occasion of the school's birthday in late September. Snapshots below will give you a sense of who's been up to what.



Heroes for Haven House

Students and staff gave rein to their creativity on Friday 26 April to raise money for our neighbouring Charity, the Children's Hospice here on the High Road beside us. We adopted their National Hospice Week theme and a colourful cast of superheroes from Caped Crusaders to Cat Women came to our aid. Over £700 pounds was added to our Haven House Fund. A heroic effort.

Ms J Pomeroy Head Teacher

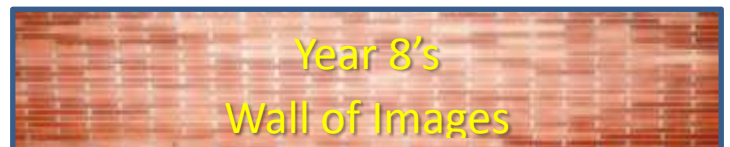
Sugar and Spice and All Things Nice

With Easter comes a focus on all things chocolate so the catering team invited students and staff to "be a good egg" and donate Easter Eggs of all shapes and sizes for the siblings of children treated at Haven House. No sooner had the Easter Bunny made his delivery, it seemed, than the hospice staff asked for our help with something rather unusual.



Two of the characters of *"The Only Way is Essex"* (TOWIE) had donated their engagement cake and we were challenged to sell it. A fantastic fondant fairy-tale scene, it attracted quite some attention in the dining room and raised £140 through its sale. To end the year we held a fund-raising lunch which added a further £74.68 to the school's Haven House fund. So well in excess of £200 raised and all sorts of goodies enjoyed. Thank you everyone!

Mrs Quinlan, School Cook



As an end of unit project in ICT, every Year 8 pupil was given a word at random as a stimulus after which they produced a manipulated (copyright free) image based on this word. Staff were also asked to submit their own creative efforts.



These are all displayed anonymously in postcard size. Students & staff were invited to purchase one for 20p when the

identity of the creator was revealed.

The amount raised was £87.00 which will go to Haven House Children's Hospice.

Mrs L Turnbull, Head of ICT

Religious Studies Haven House Projects

Earlier this year Sophie Nathan, one of our RS A-Level students who left 4 years ago, contacted us. She had just started working at Haven House and spotted a need which she thought we could fulfil. The carers there needed to extend their understanding of different religious perspectives on end of life and life after death



Year 10 Winners: Sidrha, Subangi, Maisha and Sara issues. There was also a need for more religious diversity in their prayer room.

We proposed two competition projects with our Year 10 GCSE classes and a Year 8 class. The Year 10s worked on producing information leaflets for the carers, and 8N produced prayer boxes for the parents and children. Sophie came in to view their work and see their presentations.

(Picture below 8N presenting their prayer box)



The projects fulfilled the practical needs of Haven House and allowed our students to display their understanding of elements of their GCSE course.



Some students in 8N made charitable donations of artefacts for their boxes. Prayer Box competition winners will be announced at the end of term.



Mr Becket, Head of Religious Studies.



The Oscars



The Year 9 Film Making unit came to a close with the annual WCHS 'Oscars'. Twenty-one films were submitted and eleven nominated based on the pupils' evaluations of each other's films. From these finalists various awards were given by a panel of judges made up of staff and a professional from the film industry. The Best Film was awarded to a group in 9W called Anomalous Data (Rachel Field, Rosanna Joseph, Anjana Kumar, Nilaani Nagasuganthan, Anisha Srirangan) with their film "Run!"



Mrs L Turnbull, Head of ICT



The London Marathon

I had never considered myself to be a runner. At school I did a bit of cross-country, but usually sought to avoid athletics in favour of cricket.

In my mid twenties, I was persuaded to run a half marathon when the school I worked at then put in a team of 16 staff to raise money for charity. I considered running to be a necessary evil to keep fit for playing and, later, refereeing rugby.

I became more interested in running when my sons reached secondary school age and showed they were quite good. They joined Woodford Green Athletic Club, ran on track, across country and in the mini-marathon. It was then that I started to realise the excitement and “buzz” there was at the marathon.

When I retired from refereeing rugby, I began to put on weight. Encouraged by my younger son – “you’ll have to become a full time athlete now, Dad” – I took up running; not seriously at first, but I began to set myself targets and started to run in cross country and 10k races. I soon had the bug. The first 4 times I entered the ballot for the marathon, I was unsuccessful, but this year I was lucky enough to get a place through Woodford Green AC.

Training began in earnest in December, though I had been training before. 25 miles per week, with a “long” run of 6 miles wasn’t going to be good enough. I followed a schedule, which gradually increased in mileage and distance. Staff at WCHS looked at me with admiration (or was it bemusement) when I arrived at school on a Friday morning having run “the long way” round from Wanstead, via Leytonstone and Whipps Cross, about 7 miles. My longest distance was 20 miles, which I ran about 3 weeks before the event. My diet had to be right as well, plenty of carbs, good hydration, and experiments with glucose gels.

By the time the big day came, I weighed in at 11 stones 2 pounds, about 2 stones down from some two years previously. I felt mentally and physically prepared. I hoped to complete the course in 4 hours. It was much harder than I expected.

For the first part of the race everything went according to my plan; 10 miles in 89 minutes; half way in 1 hour 58; 15 miles in 2 and a quarter hours; then I reached the Isle of Dogs! I began to slow down. At 18 ½ miles I hit the fabled “wall”. I stopped running and walked to the next drinks station. Then came the cramps – calves, hamstrings, places where I didn’t know I had muscles! For the next 4 – 5 miles I

stretched, then walked, then jogged in sequence. I didn’t think I was going to make it. Other runners and the crowd kept me going. 3 things kept coming into my head; people have sponsored me to do this; I won’t get the medal; I’ll never hear the end of it from my sons if I stop. Gradually, water and glucose got me going again and I was able to run the last 4 miles without stopping, though it seemed an eternity. When I crossed the finish line there was a great feeling of exhilaration; the time, 4hours 38 minutes, no longer seemed to important as the fact that I had done it.

Once I had done enough training to make me think I could do it, I decided, as most runners do, to gain sponsorship for a charity. I chose the Royal National Institute for Blind People. My father was blind. He had been blinded in a road accident in his early thirties, before I was born. I grew up in a household that had to live with this disability. My father was really quite remarkable in the way he lived out the remaining 47 years of his life. He received enormous help from RNIB, particularly from their “talking book” service. It was in his memory that I ran, and was able to raise more than £1500. I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents at WCHS who supported me and helped me reach that total.

As I was suffering between miles 19 and 23, I thought to myself, I will never do this again. However, the next day I entered the ballot for next year. RNIB have offered me a place to run. I will need even more mileage next year!



Mr Phillips
History and Religious Studies Departments.

NATRE Spirited Arts: 'Art in Heaven' Competition 2013

The themes for this year's competition are...

Prayer: How and why?

Many religions believe that there is a way of talking to God. Prayers are sometimes done in ornate services, with poetic language and amazing music. But sometimes people pray because they are desperate, frightened or crushed. Prayers can be to Allah, to Jesus, to Krishna or to 'someone, but I'm not sure who'. Religious people pray – but so do lots of agnostics and even some atheists! There are lots of stories of answered prayers from many religious people. But some prayers don't seem to get the answer you want. We're still waiting for world peace! Make a work of art that shows people praying, or an answer to prayer, or an unanswered prayer, or your idea or experience of prayer. Think about how and why people pray, and explain your ideas to go with your image.

Windows on the Soul

If there was window into your soul, what would we see? If you look out of the Soul's Window, what do you notice? This theme encourages young artists to dream and imagine the spirit and soul. If they look out through the windows in your mind or soul into the 'big beyond' what will you see? What opens up the 'window of the soul'? Is it music, or worship, or nature or people we love? Or does the window only really open when we die? Well-crafted window frames might help here, but the winning art work will be surprising, thoughtful and original.

God: What if...?

What if God sent a message to the earth today? Or to your street? What if God came to see you, and answered your questions? What if you could take God out for lunch? What if God was one of us? What if God is not real at all? What if God seems to harm us (as in the Bible Book of Job)? Art in Heaven's theme about God is often the most popular in the competition: this year pupils are invited to think imaginatively about surprise questions and possible answers. Younger children may need some examples, but work from 4-7s will be very welcome (they might use the simple question from last year: Where is God?) Video entries in this category (and others) are welcome.

Open mind!



RE is really good at enabling pupils to think outside of the box. Being open minded is a value almost everyone admires – no-one wants to be a bigot. But it's not often that you meet someone who really is open minded & sees every other viewpoint, religious or atheist, as it is.

Everybody likes being open minded – but what does it mean? All religions teach openness, but they don't always practise it! Create an image about being big hearted, broad minded and living together with people you disagree with – or about the opposite. Different religions can co-operate. Show our judges your ideas about the open mind in startling pictures and words.



The Religious Studies Department will be sending off up to 10 entries from year 9 who have taken part in this national competition. With



some strong entries this year, we hope that there might be some winners!



**Mr Becket,
Head of Religious Studies**



visit and I know that Miss Richardson, Miss Quinn and I are really looking forward to going and know that the students who are fortunate enough to go will be wowed throughout the trip.



I hope to post images of the visit in the Autumn term newsletter.



On behalf of the other members of the Geography Department, I would like to wish you all a very happy summer holiday and ask if you would please encourage your daughter to keep a distant eye on some of the major global events

during the next few months. It is always great to see students who are able to apply real world examples to what they study in the classroom.

Mr I Saxton
Head of Geography

Geography Department **Summer 2013**

It has been an incredibly busy term for the department with field visits organised for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. The weather has been mixed with appalling rain in Herne Bay, overcast skies in Rochester and bright sunshine

in Clacton. A collection of images can be seen below.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all parents who have supported these visits. 'Voluntary contributions' are absolutely necessary to enable curriculum visits to occur and therefore provide students with the invaluable experience of learning outdoors. The improved levels of confidence and wider skills developed are so important.

In October, the department will travel with 30 new Year 11 and 13 geography students to Iceland. This will be our second



Routes Into Languages

Some exciting news from the languages department.



A number of Woodford girls took part in a languages competition "Keeping the Olympic Spirit alive", organised by Routes into Languages and open to secondary school pupils in London schools. The organisers were very impressed with the entries from Woodford and they would like to award the three girls a certificate.

The three entries are from:



Rojah Thayabaran (a large 3D poster)

Shruti Veeranki (a large poster)

Ananya Ambekar (a postcard).



Miss M Heath
MFL Department



Supreme Court Trip

On Thursday the 18th of July a few politics and history students, along with some of us who are interested in studying law at university, went on a trip to the Supreme Court. This is the place of last resort and the highest appellate court in the UK, situated in Westminster.

On arrival we were given a tour of some of the court rooms along with a brief summary its history since it was established in 2009, replacing the judicial functions of the House of Lords.

We were informed about the 12 Justices, the types of cases that are brought and how the Supreme Court fits in with the rest of the legal system. There was also an opportunity for us to sit in on the hearing that was in session.

The appellant (a female member of the Church of Scientology) had sought to marry her partner in the place she deemed her place of worship. However the Registrar General declined her application for the place to be licenced for marriage on the basis that it did not meet the criteria for a 'meeting place of religious worship'. The appellant sought for this to be overturned. This in turn brought up many fascinating questions such as, 'What constitutes a place of worship?' 'What makes something a religion?' and 'What does religious worship consist of. in the eyes of the law?'

The trip allowed us to take a closer look at the Law and the

UK Legal System, helping us to develop our knowledge of things we had previously learnt. All those who went on the trip learned something new, and I believe it will aid us in making an informed decision when deciding what to study at university.

Vera Opoku 12 SDO
6th Former



PE Visit 2013 – Club Correze



On Friday 24th May 2013 thirty Woodford pupils from years 10, 11 and 12 set off on the PE visit to Club Correze; an outdoor adventure and multi-activity centre for schools located in the picturesque town of Meymec, Southern France.

On arrival late on the Friday night we were greeted by snowploughs and gritted roads as the weather had taken an unexpected turn for the worse. Undeterred by this sudden change in the weather, the following morning we headed for the local lake for a day of canoeing, kayaking and sailing. Lashing rain and strong winds could have put a dampner on the day, however the girls were in high spirits, singing and splashing their way through the activities.

Day two found the Robin Hoods and James Bonds of the group with some riffle shooting and archery. This was followed by a fiercely fought orienteering task (staff included) that allowed us to explore the breath taking scenery of the surrounding area.



Our final day saw the weather improve as we headed to the Dordogne River. Abseiling and Gorge Walking were the activities of the day and for the majority of us this was a visit highlight. Scrambling through the stream, under and over logs whilst navigating up small waterfalls, really brought out the brilliant teamwork skills of the group. This was followed by the abseiling with many students conquering their fears of heights and skilfully braving the 25 metre drop. The final day was rounded off by a farewell disco where it was not only the students who had a few dance moves to show. Overall a fantastic time was had by both staff and students with the girls being a credit to the school and themselves.

**Miss Keeling
PE Department**



Year 10 & 11 Badminton team report.



After entering and winning 3 consecutive rounds of the competition, (the previous one being held at Crystal Palace) we set off for the finals of the Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships, in Nottingham on 22nd April. The competition is hosted in partnership with Badminton England and Wilson, and is one of the biggest school

tournaments in Europe. Over 36,000 competitors took part, and as a team we were one out of nine teams who reached the national finals.

On the day of the finals, we were well prepared, both mentally and physically. Although we were quite nervous, we handled the pressure well, as for a handful of us, it wasn't our first time getting to this stage. As well as this, the moral support and advice our teachers provided us with allowed us to dive into our first games. In our first round of games, after a tough couple matches against Brunts Academy (who finished 2nd) and Trinity School (who finished 4th), we came last in our pool of 3, despite playing really well as a



team and persevering. A slow start in our first match against Trinity School partly let us down, but as a team we united together and focused on doing the best we could in the following round.

The second round consisted of us playing against St Martins, and

The Kingswinford School for the positions of 7th, 8th and 9th nationally. This time we did not have the problem of a slow start, and fired into our first game against St Martins.

Unluckily we lost 3-2, but despite this in the match we played a lot better and worked better as a team. Our final match of the competition was against The Kingswinford School, which we were determined not to lose. After a well fought match, we were successful winning 3-2 in a



match which consisted of a lot of intense games. Another great opportunity came our way when we got to meet Nathan Robertson, World Champion and Olympic silver medallist, and Ryan Walker, the U19 National Champion and one of the best players in Europe. So all in all we had a fantastic experience, one which we will never forget.

Overall our results placed us 8th nationally in KS4 badminton, which is a huge achievement for us and our school, and we could not have done this without the help and support of the PE Department.



Riya Amin 11N

Year 7 District Cross Country Competition



The first week back after Easter marked the start of the summer term and the sun was shining as Year 7 made their way to Wanstead Park to compete in the district cross country. 116 girls ran the 2000m course around the park. The Woodford girls held their position on the start line and fought off some tough



competition. The team placed 4th overall, Natalie Vriend (7H) had a particularly good race finishing 12th overall.

Football



Due to a high interest in Girls' Football, this summer term we entered two Year 7 & 8 tournaments. The first was played at Caterham High School with the majority of our students making their footballing debut. They worked very well as a team and

supported each other throughout each game. More recently we attended the 'City of London Football Festival' in Wanstead, which aimed to get more girls involved in the sport. Here they once again performed very well and although they did not win the tournament they still all walked away with certificates and medals. The students involved showed great dedication and commitment to training and a big well done to them for both tournament performances.

Throughout the year Mr Leo has been training the girls' football team and recently the year 9 & 10 girls took part in a tournament at Caterham school on the 22nd May. Team A came second, losing only to the eventual winners, Trinity. The B team came last. All the goals for Team A came from Renee but the build up play was fantastic and involved everyone from the Goalkeeper up to the final finish. All the games were



very closely fought contests and all Woodford girls performed admirably amongst some very strong opposition.



Badminton

Badminton Young Officials Award

Nikita Gunamal 9W	Aamina Shah 9N
Marla Lakhan 9H	Saranya Sivapalan 9N
Suhaa Mahmood 9H	Garthika Sundaram 9H
Sanjana Makhija 9R	Rojah Thayabaran 9H
Luxsheni Manogaran 9W	Tamara Fawzi 10W
Sabah Mohammed 9W	Riona Jayakody 10R
Adaenza Onyiuke 9R	Lydia Rajkumar 10H
Minal Patel 9H	Akshaya Sathesh 12MH

On 24th June 16 students took part in their Badminton Young Official Award. Following this training they then completed their qualification during Open Evening where they officiated at the Year 8 Badminton Tournament.

The tournament itself was a closely fought with the overall winner being Hajra Bashir from 8R and Jaanika Chadha from 8N a close second.

Athletics

This year's athletics top 10's has been a closely fought battle as a decent run of weather has meant Woodford girls have been able to take on the challenge of a whole range of track and field events. Extra athletics coaching at lunch time has seen girls make vast improvements.

Wednesday 26th June saw Years 7-10 compete in the Borough Athletics Competition at Ashtons Athletic track. It was a long, hot day, especially for those whose events came later in the programme. Woodford girls represented themselves very well, competing in each event to the best of their ability and supporting their teammates from the side of the track.

The following girls did exceptionally well in their events:

Anjola Sofuyi- 3rd in the High Jump and 3rd in the 200m
Eve Register, Simi Ayeni-Yegbe, Joni Griffith, Saima Syed – 1st in Relay

Jaanika Chadha – 2nd in the Javelin

Eve Register - 3rd in the 100m

Eunice Sarpong – 2nd Discus

Sharmika Chandrakumar - 1st in the triple jump

Lily Auguste - 3rd in the 1500m

Atena Ahmed - 3rd in Javelin

Team Photo's

Redbridge Rounders Tournaments



Year 7 Team



Year 8 team = 1st Place



Year 9 Team = 3rd Place

Team Photo's *continued*



Year 10 team



Year 9 team = 5th Place

Athletics



Year 7 team = 6th Place



Year 10 team = 3rd Place.



Year 8 team = 3rd Place

Leavers' Gallery 2013

Miss Cheryl Corney



This summer brings with it the retirement of Woodford's longest serving teacher. Cheryl took up post here as a newly qualified teacher in 1977, the year of the Silver Jubilee. Following announcements that "The King is dead", the soundtrack of the summer had been Elvis. September brought more sombre coverage of the death in custody in Pretoria of Steve Biko. By November, with London's fire fighters out on strike, the army's 'green goddesses' were a familiar sight on the streets of London. Such was the back-drop of a young teacher's first term at Woodford.

Cheryl was appointed by the aptly named Miss Satchel, or as folk-lore has it, by her dog Robbie, who obligingly wagged a tail at the decisive moment. She appears in a 1979 cine film of the school and stars in another filmed on location at Glasbury, the disappearance of which is the subject of a conspiracy theory of two. She entered teaching a decade before the creation of a National Curriculum and the GCSE examination and 15 years before the formation of Ofsted. An accomplished linguist, a commitment to bringing language learning to life has informed her 36 years in the classroom here.

She must have many stories to tell of trips and exchanges to Germany and to France. Closer to home, she's organised countless theatre trips with a modern languages connection, and she has taken a particular interest in the emerging career of an ex Woodford head girl – the playwright Lucy Kirkwood. A German scholar first and foremost, she's maintained academic connections and on the introduction of our Careers' Fair in 2011 was quick to organise for us a speaker from the Goethe Institute

The visual environment of our library (formerly the master bedroom of Highams House) is kept colourful and engaging and students past and present will remember their participation in countless competitions. Cheryl is a community-

minded individual and her career of service to Woodford has been mirrored by the role she plays in her South Woodford neighbourhood and in her church. She may be too busy to miss us, but she will be missed here. We wish her every happiness in retirement.

Can you spot Miss Corney? The picture on the left was taken in 1979 to mark Woodford County High School's Diamond Jubilee Year.





Ms Caroline Haworth

Caroline joined Woodford from Henrietta Barnett in 1997. Initially a Senior Teacher with responsibility for staff development, she's worn a great many hats (even a yellow one during the building of the Sports Hall) and become intimately familiar with every aspect of the school's operation. Promotion to

Deputy Head in 2001 (and to sole deputy in 2008) followed. Outgoing, and both frank and friendly in equal measure, she's built very strong relationships with students and with staff. Students know where they are with her – they reach by reflex for hair bands as they approach in a corridor – but there's a lightness of touch and a sense of proportion that diverts confrontation with all but the most intractable. Colleagues rely on her for the practical detail that oils the mechanism and balances the conflicting responsibilities of a busy school.

Caroline's a scientist by profession and by mindset, and having spent four years as a research assistant at a hospital medical school before training as a teacher, she's well placed to contextualise learning for students by reference to its practical application. Her specialist area – genetics – is reflected in the school's allegiance to the national Jeans for Genes Day each September.

Caroline's loyalty to all things Woodford has been evident in her unfailing support of school activities from concerts to plays, fundraisers to careers evenings. Her genuine pleasure in girls' achievements has bolstered their self-esteem. The biennial expeditions so enjoyed by girls and so valued by their parents were her response to an identified need to build the self-reliance and resilience of our students. Trips to Peru and to Borneo (2000 and 2002) paved the way for the six which have followed as the baton is passed on to other colleagues.

Parents have valued Caroline's advice and the PFA have appreciated support of their events. Governors too would want me to draw attention to her role in supporting them in their work for over a decade.

Out of school family and friends, a dog and a polo-munching horse compete for Caroline's attention. She has plans aplenty and after 15 years of service to the school, retirement might just give her time to enact some of them. We wish her well in her retirement.



Mrs Laurane Turnbull

Laurane's association with the school – first as a pupil and then as a teacher – spans no fewer than 45 years. Photographs dug out of the back of a filing cabinet earlier this year turned out to be of her class and she recalls being required to bounce endlessly on a trampoline on the back terrace for the 1969 Open Day with not a thought given

to Health and Safety.

The backdrop to Laurane's working life (25 years here) may have been fairly constant, but she's re-created herself many times in her career. Appointed as a PE teacher she later sought a bigger stage on which to make an impact, acting from September 2006 as a Co-ordinator of School Sports, encouraging the development of sporting opportunities (particularly in dance and badminton) between Redbridge schools. By this time the classroom job was in ICT where she's designed a constantly evolving curriculum, championing in recent years the introduction of the Functional Skills Test and the development of *Fronter*, our Managed Learning Environment. She brings enormous enthusiasm and creativity to everything she does, and ICT, labelled lifeless and utilitarian in so many schools, has here been anything but. Imaginative assignments for delivery direct to their audiences (Year 8's postcard-design business, the Year 9 Oscars) have enlivened learning with the spirit of enterprise.

In the past two years Laurane has been the creative mastermind behind our two co-curricular enterprises: the Olympic Week of 2012 and, just this very last week, *Fiesta!* Her close acquaintance with the school's past doesn't limit her ambitions for its future and imagination, organisational flair and above all, a sense of fun, have been amply evidenced in the success of these projects.

Happily Laurane, who lives only a few hundred metres away along the High Road, will be maintaining her acquaintance with the school. We wish her well with the enterprises and excursions she's been scheduling for her retirement.



Mr Paul Utting

Paul was Helen Cleland's last appointment (May 2010) and an acquisition she will have been very happy to secure. After an education which had taken him from Loughborough to Warwick and then on to teacher training in Birmingham, the move to London must have changed the cadence of staffroom chatter. High level Mathematical skills, strong common sense and a

ready sense of humour suit him well for the classroom. He's liked and respected by his students who know they can rely on him to see them through. A commitment to self-development has seen him take on new challenges year by year such as, this last year, the teaching of Further Maths.

A Sixth Form tutor throughout his time at Woodford, Paul's been generous with his time in mentoring his tutees and supporting their university applications. He knows them well and is adept at striking the appropriate balance between challenge and reassurance.

Paul has, from the first, embraced the ethos of the school and made a very significant contribution to co-curricular activities. Within the department he's supported the Maths Challenges and won over audiences playing Finn in a departmental performance of *Glee (Teacher's Got Talent)*. Beyond the department he's turned his hand to a number of things: running hockey club (a former county player himself), accompanying Glasbury and Boulogne trips, and co-devising an Apprentice-style challenge as part of our 2012 Olympic Week. By way of a finale, perhaps, he turned out for the PFA Fair as target for a [very popular] *Soak-the-Teacher* fundraiser. Paul leaves us now to progress his career in the mixed environment of a major public school. He is deserving of our gratitude and he leaves with our very best wishes for his future.



Mr Pierre Ferrarelli

An accomplished linguist, trilingual in French, Italian and English and with a smattering of Japanese for good measure, Pierre was a welcome addition to our MFL Department when he joined us last year. He has a calm and positive classroom manner and students have appreciated the interactive nature of his lessons and have

benefitted from exposure to French as she is spoken. Originally from Jarny in France, Pierre used his languages in a variety of employment contexts before training to teach here in London. A mid-year appointment, he was thrown in at the deep end when he joined Woodford and it's to his credit that he quickly won the confidence of inherited examination classes in the busy run-up to the summer exams. Junior classes have delighted in his involvement of activities outside the classroom: school birthday activities, the Staff Choir and our two co-curricular projects. He's been a supportive member of a close departmental team and he will be missed at Woodford. We wish him well in future ventures – one of which entails the learning of Spanish!

**Picture on right:
Class trip to Boulogne**

