

WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH NEWSLETTER



Issue No 10 December 2013

HEADLINES

Like many in the Woodford community, my journey to and from school each day sees me pass the monument to Winston Churchill on the Green. Statues serve many purposes and one of the most immediate is to make us pause and reflect on the difference that one person can make to the world. It's arguable that the entire subsequent history of the planet would have been radically different if that particular man had not materialised to change the course of things in the middle of the twentieth century. And it feels like a fitting reward that someone to whom the rest of humanity owes so much should have been granted a life extending beyond its 90th year.

As we know a figure of comparable stature and influence on the global stage passed away in the closing weeks of this term. Even Churchill's 90 years cannot match Mandela's 95. And that extraordinary longevity seems all the more a just cause for celebration given that 27 of the 95 (the first 27 years of my life, in their entirety) were spent in shameful captivity.

In a certain way both men were *born* to eminence, Churchill being descended from an aristocratic family and Mandela actually from royalty. But what is really impressive about them is their actions rather than their breeding. In the sense that really matters each was a self-made man.

Humanity is always the poorer for the passing of such monumental figures but it has a compensating habit of perennially producing more. Take, for example, the cohort of students in any given school at any given time and within their ranks will be some who are destined to change the world. We may not know which of them, or how many, and their contribution may not be so breathtakingly apparent as that of a Churchill or a Mandela but be assured that they are always there in waiting.

Former students are fine ambassadors for Woodford and also, as yet, an under exploited source of inspiration and guidance for those still studying with us.

One of our projects this term has been actively to encourage alumni to establish links with the school and to share their expertise and life experience with their successors.

To that end we've signed up with a non-profit making organisation called "*Future First*" which uses modern communications technology (social media, texting and e-mail) to link adults to their alma mater. Our leavers have fond memories of their time here and in just a matter of weeks subscribers to the scheme are into treble figures and some former students have already supported university applicants here, in person or by e-mail.

Another new initiative this term was our participation in *Open House, London*. Opening our doors on Sunday 22 September allowed us to meet some of our neighbours, a local historian or two and some old girls of the school. We learned as much from our visitors as they did from us, and one or two have been back into school since to lend us their expertise.

You'll be able to read about the activities of the term, both traditional and innovative, in the pages of this newsletter. We've a number of elite junior sportswomen quietly and impressively making their mark at national and international level in disciplines from tennis to karate. In the Arts we've again girls applying to leading Art Schools and for choral scholarships. In the past fortnight some 17 Year 13 students have been interviewed by Oxbridge colleges and to date a total of 122 UCAS applications have been processed for courses ranging from Russian to Neuroscience, from Architecture to Engineering.

This newsletter, a snap shot of the term just closing, provides ample evidence of the breadth and diversity of talent that will in years to come make its mark in ways in which we cannot yet envisage. Education is an inherently optimistic endeavour and we look forward to seeing where the enthusiasm, talents and beliefs of our current students will take them.

In the meantime, however, we allow ourselves – students and staff – also to look forward to a well-earned break. I hope that this festive season will be a happy and peaceful one for you and your family and that celebrations of the new year will have you looking back on a fulfilling year past and forward to future possibilities as yet unknown.

Jo Pomeroy
Headteacher



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News from the Music Department

The Music Department has had a very exciting and busy term, full of performances, workshops and visits to concerts...

October Recital Evening

This term's Recital Evening was, as always, a wonderful evening of musical entertainment provided by students in all year groups. Highlights included Zahra Lahrie's haunting performance of 'Skyfall', Hanna Procter's beautiful 'Chanson de Matin' and Hannah Whalley's atmospheric 'Habanera'.

A visit from the Britten Sinfonia

In early December, 30 GCSE and A Level musicians took part in a workshop with members of the internationally acclaimed Britten Sinfonia, who came to visit Woodford for the afternoon. After a variety of musical warm-ups, the group discussed and listened to music from across the centuries, trying out a variety of composition and performance techniques as they went, before composing their own music in response to ideas taken from the music of Gabriel Fauré. The workshop served as an intriguing and enjoyable introduction to a concert by the Britten Sinfonia at the Wigmore Hall, which the same students attended a week later.

Photo below:

WCHS students perform with musicians from the Britten Sinfonia'.



Carol-singing in the community



7R spread a little Christmas cheer at the end of term when they went carol-singing in the local community – at New Jubilee Court sheltered housing and Greenmantle Care Home. Residents at both locations enjoyed a seasonal singalong, as well as a cup of tea and a mince pie afterwards!

Year 9 visit the Royal Opera House



In a first for Woodford, a group of year 9 students were fortunate to be selected to attend a matinee performance of Bizet's opera 'Carmen' at the prestigious Royal Opera House in December. For many, it was their first experience of opera – and it proved to be a great one, with students enjoying the familiar music, engaging acting and delicious interval ice creams.

Musicians get a shout-out at the Queen Elizabeth Hall!

A group of Year 10 & 11 GCSE music students went to the Queen Elizabeth Hall in November to see the folk-rock band Capercaillie perform live. They were privileged to hear them play the 'Skye Waulking Song', which is one of their GCSE set works. Capercaillie announced at the start of the concert that they were proud that students were learning traditional Gaelic songs and that Woodford County High School were in attendance – which was met by much cheering!



Picture above: Folk rock band Capercaillie



Pictures above and below WCHS Singers at the Christmas Carol Concert 2013.



Christmas concert a festive success

A busy term of music drew to a conclusion with the traditional Christmas concert, again featuring many of the Music Department ensembles, as well as festive readings and carols. Highlights included the Orchestra's rousing performance of Strauss' 'Radetzky March' to open the concert, the WCHS Singers' powerful rendition of Alicia Keys' 'Girl On Fire' and the joint choirs' beautiful performance of 'The Spirit of Christmas'.



House Drama 2013

Entries in the House Drama competition this year demonstrated the diversity of musical theatre: two productions drew us into the fantastical world of the fairy tale; another, to comic if unlikely effect, saw its protagonist take refuge from Philadelphian gangsters in the cloisters of a convent; the fourth grappled with the weightier issue of Argentinian history and the rise & fall of Eva Peron.

Repton, in tackling Lloyd Webber's "*Evita*", rose to the challenge of scaling down an ambitious plot to deliver a coherent narrative within the restrictions of competition rules. Imaginative staging (with *Evita* memorably addressing her people from the gallery) captured the scope of the piece and intimated powerfully the changing mood of the Argentinians. For audience members unfamiliar with the plot line, Che Guevara provided a useful, if not unbiased, running commentary.

Warner presented "*Sister Act*". The comedy of this musical derives from the juxtaposition of the world of night club singer Deloris and that of a closed order of nuns. Charged with rehearsing the convent choir, Deloris by unconventional means re-invigorates their worship, winning hearts and minds as she does so. Again a challenging plot to condense, the success of Warner's production in no small part derived from the characterisation of the individual nuns – amorphous in appearance but anything but in terms of personality.

Highams transported us to a beautiful and tremulous underwater world for their production of "*The Little Mermaid*". Sea creatures from anemones to flounder fish swelled the cast as the tale was re-told of a mermaid whose longing for the human world had her barter her beautiful singing voice for the chance to walk among humans. Even the orchestra members formed part of the underwater tableau in this grand scale and impressively cohesive production, their playing apparently unhindered by flipper and snorkel.

Newton too chose a tale popularised by Walt Disney. Pocahontas eschews an arranged marriage on her native island, striking up a necessarily secretive relationship with a colonial settler. The clash of cultures which unsettles island life was vividly portrayed in Newton's production through music, costume and movement. Drumming provided a theatrical start to the piece and was instrumental throughout in distinguishing colonial from native, military from tribal.

All four shows had much to recommend them, a fact reflected in the distribution between houses of awards for acting, for music, for costume, for set and for choreography. This year the balance for overall winner tipped in favour of Newton for its production of "*Pocahontas*". Congratulations to all concerned.

Year 13's visit Lille Christmas Market



On the 23rd of November, thirty year 13s, set off to the Lille Christmas Market in Northern France. When we arrived in Lille we undertook our 'Apprentice' challenge. Our aim was to purchase goods and sell them for a profit at the Haven House Christmas market. In teams of five, we were given a set amount of money, which we had to exchange into Euros ourselves. The obvious strategy was to find cheap goods which we could mark up but once we got to Lille, we were told we only had three hours to buy our products, making the search much harder. Somehow, the majority of us managed to spend most of our money, on goods which ranged from festive candles to giant gingerbread men to baubles. The Haven House Christmas market took place at the school on the 24th. We had six hours to sell all our Christmas stock, which put our sales skills to the test. Fortunately, we managed to sell most of the goods. The revenue we made will be donated to Haven House Children's Hospice.

Nitha Maniccadevan Year 13



Five Penny Race 2013

Run to raise funds for Leukaemia Research in memory of Kim Holdstock, a former student who died of the disease, this year's lunchtime race raised a splendid £ 2117.38 (Yes, Repton won again, but Warner was close behind!)

Mr. Becket, Head of Religious Studies

Cambodia Expedition 2013

After months of planning, departure day for the exotic country of Cambodia had finally arrived. The atmosphere was charged with excitement however tears made an appearance as we bade farewell to family members whilst commencing our three week journey. After watching endless movies during the flight, 15 Woodford girls stepped off the plane to be greeted by a waft of hot air and swarms of mosquitos. Whilst slapping the bugs off our bare skin at every opportunity we all realised that the following weeks would prove to be a summer very different to our previous ones. Our expedition consisted of three different phases. Phase 1 enabled us to explore the city of Siem Reap and acclimatise to the environment. The 1st day was used to finalise the itinerary for the trip and the 2nd to become accustomed with Cambodian culture.

The need to get grips with Cambodian culture in our eyes gave us an excuse to weave our way through the market squares, ignoring the challenging aroma of fish as we haggled with shopkeepers for gifts and general necessities. The team, content with their purchases, had high spirits for the next phase - the trek. Three days of physical endurance combined with a lack of facilities proved to be a very challenging period. However, from west end musicals to the latest rap songs we managed to sing and boost team spirits through the days' treks uniting the team as we "harmonised" confident that we had the X factor.



Feeling as fit as ever, we all scrambled back onto the coach to return back to the urban Cambodia. Days were spent learning about the devastating history of the country and about the lives of the Cambodians. However, the project phase gave us an insight to what life is really like there. We travelled to the village of Tatai ready to make a difference to this community. All the girls felt a sense of sympathy as we saw for ourselves the living conditions of many. The project phase consisted of building toilets and more pleasantly a vegetable patch in order for the villagers to sell their products to neighbouring villages. 5 days of hard work followed as we all worked through the downpours of the monsoon. Covered in mud from head to toe - each girl modelled their mud masks as they put heart and soul into making a difference.

The children from the village arrived every day and were ecstatic when they received their presents which consisted of toys, educational books and sports equipment. Football matches against the village children commenced every day at 9am and this gave the toddlers a chance to show off their Manchester United kits. Some girls used their new colouring pencils to draw portraits of the team to show a sense of appreciation whilst the others played hairdressers. The last day of the project phase arrived, the community thanked us for our help as we said our goodbyes to the children we had bonded with. We sat on the coach, waving as the children blew kisses, feeling a great deal of sadness on leaving the village. This phase of the expedition was the most life changing experience for the whole team. We left Cambodia with a great sense of gratitude and a completely different attitude towards life.



The team gleefully boarded the plane back to London. The bonds we formed and the life skills learnt will never be forgotten; our independence has grown and we all wished we could turn back time to start the trip once again. We were lucky to be offered such an opportunity but even luckier that our parents allowed us to go. Those three weeks of our lives changed us as people and made us more aware of the world around us and how lucky we all are to be here right now wearing clean clothes, able to read and write and receiving a free education. Personally, what changed my perceptions was the fact that the children although wearing the same clothes and sleeping with a leaking roof never showed any sign of discontent. The community as a whole were very positive people and co-operated with each other yet here we become exasperated over the smallest hurdle in life. If you ever have the chance to go on an expedition please take the opportunity because we promise that there is no greater joy we have ever experienced than helping someone in need.

By Natasha Patel 12 BQ on behalf of the expedition team.

The Great French Bake Off Comes to Woodford



Last week students in years 7 - 12 took part in two French baking sessions where they made traditional Christmas biscuits from the Alsace region.

Pupils worked from a recipe in French to create the biscuits. Many pupils had informal discussions in French as they were working, asking each other for “farine” and “sucre” as well as talking to each about other more general topics. The biscuits turned out well and pupils were able to share their baked goods with friends and family.



Launch of Languages Magazine

Pupils from years 8-11 have been working during their lunch break to create an MFL magazine. They have written a range of articles in French and German on a wide range of topics, from Christmas traditions and film reviews to discursive articles on the importance of languages.

The girls involved in the magazine will launch the first edition, where the girls will be able to talk to teachers and pupils about their articles. The magazine will be uploaded on to Fronter and copies will be distributed to form groups.



Student Teaches Hebrew

Teaching Hebrew was really fun because it gave people an opportunity to learn a new language. My favourite part was teaching my class how to dance and sing Israeli songs. This experience has taught me that teaching is not as easy as it looks. I had to plan lessons on what I was going to teach and plan how I would present the lesson. I have a renewed appreciation for my teachers.

Ilana Aaron 8W

Students learning Israeli dancing



New Alumni Network

This year we are working with the charitable organisation Future First to set up a new alumni network. Future First's vision is that every school should be supported by a thriving, engaged alumni community.

Alumni can offer invaluable support in a range of ways, for example as career and educational role models, mentors/e-mentors, work experience providers, governors, or even fundraisers or donors.

We have a fast growing network and have already been able to make contact with alumni to provide mock interviews with Year 13, advice prior to university interview at Cambridge and information to current Year 12 students about the subject they wish to study at university.

We would be delighted if you would pass the link on to anyone who attended Woodford in the past so that we can keep in touch with them in the future. Please see attached information and follow the link below to sign up:

Here is our online sign-up link:

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student/woodford> This is where former students can sign up to our network.

Check out who's talking about Future First: [Times Educational Supplement](#) [BBC News](#) [The Independent Financial Times](#) [Cabinet Office](#) [House of Commons](#) [City of London Corporation](#) [PRIME](#)



Visit to the Copper Box Arena

We were all very excited to hear that we had been given free tickets to the copper box arena. After the Olympic Games, going to watch badminton at one of the elite venues seemed an opportunity we could not miss- so we grabbed it.

We arrived at the Copper Box, with massive letters on its side spelling RUN. We took some photos and after some organisation we received tickets from Miss Marshall and headed inside. We walked in with excitement and managed to watch plenty of badminton. After the games, some of us went after players, hunting for pictures, autographs and more.

All in all we had a great time and it was a great opportunity we were all glad to have had. The Copper Box Arena visit was definitely a day to remember.

Suhaa Mahmood 10H

MOVEMBER

During the month of November, 8 brave teachers of Woodford County took the challenge of growing moustaches to raise money for, and in awareness of Movember, a prostate and testicular cancer charity.

Students were given the opportunity to vote for the best/worst moustaches and as a result staff raised £303.

The winning moustaches were Mr. Saxton for "most bushiest", Dr. Maldjian for most suited moustache and for the least suited, the joint winners were Mr Mackie and Mr Phillips.

Thank you to all who contributed.

**Mr Abbott
Head of Art**



**Winner Mr Saxton
"Most Bushiest"**



**Winner Dr Maldjian
Most Suited**



**Mr Phillips and Mr Mackie
Joint Winners of
Least Suited**



**Other Movember Participants
Mr Pearce, Mr Abbott & Mr Mawani**

Silver Linings Playbook

Author Matthew Quick

The summer task in Psychology this year was to discover a new psychological read and to recommend it to others. Class discussions took place about our favourite psychological books, and I decided to venture out for a new book. I found the **Silver Linings Playbook** and it quickly became one of my favourites.

This book is the story of how Pat Peoples copes with the outside world after spending 4 years in the 'bad place' as he calls it, or more commonly known as a psychiatric institution. This book is told in first person, allowing the reader to immerse themselves in the mind of another person and get an insight what it is like to be affected with bi-polar disorder.

Pat is a complex character, difficult to comprehend at first because of his actions and how he understands the world, adding an intriguing complexity to the novel. His world has collapsed after his wife left him for some 'apart time'. Pat tries to improve himself by living according to his own philosophy; looking for the silver linings in every situation and also learning to be "nice *and* not right." Tiffany, a girl he befriends, acts as a catalyst for self-improvement. Like Pat, she is struggling and this leads them to form an unconventional and close connection. When Tiffany offers Pat an ultimatum several events unfold.

For me this book was a fascinating read because we get to see the world the way Pat sees it, not just when he interacts with his psychiatrist Dr Patel, but with everything he does. What is so striking is how it differs from normal thought-processes. As Pat begins to better understand himself and the actions of others, we see how he has

grown and moved on from the person he was in the past and this in itself is interesting and inspiring to see.

Vanathi Sushilan Year 13 MH



Center Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships - Redbridge round.



On the 5th December the first round of the Centre Parcs National Schools Badminton Championships was held at our school, for both KS3 and KS4 teams from across the Borough, all fighting for a ticket through to the county round.

In the KS3 category there were 5 teams playing in a round-robin, consisting of some tough and intense matches, which were amicably umpired by some of our badminton young officials. Eventually it all boiled down to the match between Bancroft A and Woodford A, as both teams had won their 4 previous games. However, in the end Bancroft's A comfortably beat Woodford A with a strong performance; resulting in Bancroft's A winning the first round, and Woodford coming a close second.

Following this in the KS4 category there were only 2 teams, Valentines and Woodford. Both the teams wanted to progress through to the next round, and after a strenuous match between the two Redbridge schools, Woodford came out on top, therefore progressing to the County round of the competition.

We will keep you updated on their progress in this competition.

Riya Amin Year 12



Visit to the Houses of Parliament.

Tuesday 10th December 2013

On arrival at Westminster station we were astounded to find how big the Houses of Parliament actually were. They looked like a palace out of a storybook. After going through security with minimal casualties (Neha's belt and Naseema's scissors) we went into the great hall. Despite it being cold we spent our time thoroughly enjoying and admiring the architecture and art that was on display.

We then were introduced to our tour guide, Roger. He walked us to the middle of the Houses, the point where the House of Commons met the House of Lords. This was also where we were finally joined by the ever punctual Anisa. As we were shown around, we marvelled at the art which was hanging on every wall. There were stunning portraits of monarchs and lords alike.



Next stop was the House of Commons, which sadly we were not allowed to go into directly as ministerial questions were taking place. We did however strike lucky again and were given the fantastic opportunity to view ministerial questions from the viewing gallery. After going through security and walking up countless stairs we were seated and eagerly watched the proceedings.

Then it was time for us to return to school. On our way out we were shown the brass plate in the Great Hall that was there in commemoration of the late Nelson Mandela. Then we made a quick stop at the gift shop to buy Mr. Phillips his "Chief Whip" mug which we are sure he will treasure forever. On our journey back to the station we went to visit Nelson Mandela's statue and memorial which was erected outside of the Houses of Parliament. After Asha, Naseema and Anisa's rescue mission for their scissors we were safely on our train home.



Whilst showing us around the Queen's dressing room we were told about Queen Victoria and shown that the monarchy aimed to live by the same values that were exhibited by King Arthur and although the paintings were sadly never finished, the idea was refreshing and inspiring. There was also a display of modern photography next to the throne on which Queen Victoria used to sit (complete with her infamous footstool).

After what seemed like an eternity of walking and standing we were taken into the House of Lords, only to be told that we could not sit down as we were not peers. Despite the disappointment we were told stories of corrupt monarchs and the speaker's black rod, which swiftly distracted us from the ache in our legs. In addition we were also very lucky as we were allowed to watch the introduction of the speaker, which was a welcome spectacle.

All in all this trip to the Houses of Parliament was unforgettable and has allowed me to see a practical application of the work on parliament we have been undertaking at AS.

Dilara Sangha Year 12 BM



Inter-form Netball



Throughout the autumn term the Year 10 Sports Leaders did an excellent job of setting up trials and training sessions in preparation for the Netball inter-form competition. Over 300 students took part in the competition, whether that was playing, umpiring or leading. All matches were very competitive and those playing put in 100% effort in order to gain points for their house. The event was once again a great success and a big thanks to the A Level PE students who helped organise and umpire the games. Well done to everyone who took part and the results are printed below:

Year 7	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 st – Highams 2 nd – Newton 3 rd – Repton 4 th – Warner
Year 8	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 st – Warner 2 nd – Highams 3 rd – Newton 4 th – Repton
Year 9	Combined A & B Team Results: 1 st – Warner 2 nd – Newton 3 rd – Repton 4 th – Highams
Year 10	1 st – Highams 2 nd – Newton 3 rd – Repton 4 th – Warner
Year 11	1 st – Newton 2 nd – Repton 3 rd – Warner 4 th – Highams



Miss G Irwin
PE Department

Peer Support

The past few months have been a very exciting time for the peer support group of 2013. The summer bazaar was a huge success and enabled us to raise awareness and funds for the make a wish foundation. During this time we have prepared various assemblies; recently we focused our assembly on the topic of bullying in recognition of anti-bullying week. Our aim was to raise awareness of the various types of bullying and to inform our fellow students of the different kinds of support that are available within the school.

Following on from the last assembly students have now been issued with Peer Support cards by their tutors with details on how to contact us in the strictest confidence. These cards contain information of our drop in session, email address and Peer Support box. We hope that this will give the students the confidence to contact us knowing that we are here to help them through this transitional time in their life.



Faiza Mirza
Peer Supporter

Ambassadors of Faith and Belief



At the end of last Summer Term, four of our Year 11 students attended a course on becoming 'Ambassadors of Faith and Belief'. The AFaB scheme is designed to help Primary Schools where the Ambassadors work with classes and help to take assemblies. They prepare and deliver presentations on their faiths and beliefs and try to answer any questions that pupils may have.

Schools book the Ambassadors via the Redbridge AFaB website (www.redbridgeafab.org.uk) which also provides their profiles. Our girls have already had a number of requests for their presentations and are eagerly looking forward to their first bookings over the next few weeks. We wish them every success in this important enterprise.

Mr. Becket, Head of Religious Studies

Careers Fair

The Woodford County High School Careers Fair took place on the 22nd of October. The evening began with an introductory speech from our keynote speaker Robert Neame. Mr Neame is the Team Leader for Educational services at Babcock International and he gave students an insight into the labour market and the various factors to consider when choosing a career path. After the keynote speech, students attended talks delivered by volunteer speakers. We had a wide range of speakers on the night and this gave the girls an opportunity to explore new career paths that they knew little about. Students in year 11 also had the opportunity to speak with their subject teachers about their A-level options and to gain a greater understanding of the subjects at A-level. The evening was a great success and I would like to thank all involved.

Mr Donohue
Economic Department

Senior Mathematical Challenge

At the beginning of November fifty-five Year 12 and 13 students arrived at school particularly early one morning to demonstrate their problem solving skills in the UKMT Senior Mathematical. Their efforts during the hour and half challenge were rewarded with a haul of four Gold, nine Silver and sixteen Bronze certificates.

Priya Radia was named 'Best in Year' among our Year 12 students and Christina Ayriss won the title 'Best in Year' for Year 13 and also the overall award of 'Best in School'. Christina gained an impressive ninety-eight marks which meant she also qualified for the next stage, the Senior Kangaroo Competition. Two more Year 13 students, Sushila Ramani and Jenny Essery, also scored sufficiently highly to be offered the chance to take part in the Kangaroo. We are currently waiting to hear the results of this stage of the competition.

We commend all of our Sixth form mathematicians who voluntarily participated in the challenge and look forward to many more of our Advanced Level students joining in next year. Many congratulations to all our certificate winners.

Mrs Y Thompson
Head of Mathematics

Year 13 – Biology Field Trip. Autumn 2013

For our biology field trip we visited Epping Forest and learnt about many sampling techniques and carried out investigations. In the morning we practised freshwater sampling which improved our practical skills. We collected invertebrates in a pond and using keys given to us, we identified the different invertebrates. In groups we gave a presentation to the class about one species and learnt about other organisms that can also be found in ponds. This enabled us to learn more about different species living in the pond as well their adaptations.

Later, we planned an investigation to find the abundance and distribution of freshwater invertebrates. We later discussed the limitations of our methods.

After lunch we went to a site in the forest to carry out observations. We made notes on the site including the distribution, zonation and structure of the field. We took into consideration the impact that humans have had on the site such as soil erosion and compaction. Through systematic sampling, we measured and recorded the abundance and distribution of plants using a quadrat along a transect.

Finally through the succession walk, we were able to see the different stages from early succession to the climax community. We were able to see vegetation changing over time as well the species present in a community.

**By Adshara Vimalanathan
Year 13**

Picture below: Epping Forest.



**Early stage
succession**



**Later stage
succession**



Later stage again
Note the height of
the vegetation



Later still. Fast
growing trees are the
dominant species.
Ground cover in this
instance has
decreased because of
competition for light.



However, here there
has been a clearing,
illustrating that
where there is less
competition for light,
vegetation at the

lower level can establish itself. This highlights the main basis of succession in that existing species alter the environment, changing it for other species.

In many English habitats, oak or beech woodland is the climax community. Although in theory, the biodiversity increases as succession proceeds, in these communities, often there is such dense canopy cover that there is too much competition for light.

In Scottish habitats, conifers often form the climax community.



Woodford County High School for Girls High Road, Woodford Green

The original building and grounds



A substantial detached house sited on the estate of the Walthamstow manor house of Higham Bensted, (listed in the Domesday Book), Highams Manor was built in 1768 for Anthony Bacon MP by William Newton with grounds later laid out by Humphrey Repton.

“Highams” was an elegant Georgian manor house containing: kitchens connected to the room above by a dumb-waiter, food being taken to the dining-room through an adjoining door (later blocked); a ballroom (below which was the library); chapel; living-rooms; bedrooms on the first floor; and, at the top of the house, servants’ quarters.

The First World War

The house was converted into a military hospital during the Great War with ground and first floor rooms used as operating theatres and wards



School is established

In 1919 the building was rented from the Warner family by Essex County Council for the purpose of establishing a new school for girls. Building renovation was needed to turn wards used by soldiers into classrooms to be used by girls.

This was done by Messrs Wallace & Wallace, but the project over-ran so the School could not open until 29th September 1919.

There was a stable-block and yard, vegetable garden, orchard, rose garden, tennis court and a park sloping down towards the lake. (The lake had been sold to the Corporation of London in 1891.) The grounds covered 16 acres, and included where the roads between Highams Park Lake and Chingford Lane are now: Charter Avenue, Henry’s Avenue, Crealock Road and & Nesta Road (built in the early 1930s).

In 1919 the front lawn was surrounded by trees and bushes, and at the back a tree was cut down when the field was leveled for sports. The tree was incorporated into the school badge.



In 1929 the School was bought by the County Council and a commemorative inscription was put over the fireplace in the front hall. The kitchen yard became the gymnasium; the greenhouse area became the hall; the kitchen garden became tennis courts.

The School, which is 211' above sea level, is in two parishes. Currently the buildings are in Waltham Forest and the lawn, wall & gates in Redbridge.

Alterations and additions

The North Wing, added in 1927, had 7 classrooms, cloakrooms, gym and dining-room. Access was made easier by the provision of a new pedestrian gate on Chingford Lane corner. 1929: The annexe was demolished and the Assembly Hall built.

1938: A crush hall and gallery were added.

A



The swimming baths

1926 Fund-raising was started for swimming-baths in the grounds. 1928: The old stables were demolished, the site to be used for the baths. There were drainage problems, so fund-raising ceased; then in 1931 it was re-started. 1939: The baths were finished.



1981: The pool was covered over after constant leaks and was used for storage and drama. The drama centre in the old swimming baths had a fire in 1988; and the pool was condemned as dangerous. The 70th birthday donations were expected to go towards the £250,000 needed for a new sixth form suite there. The plans were shelved in 1991 in favour of an art and technology centre (National Curriculum). 1938: The old laboratories were demolished and the South Wing was built to match the North Wing, where the stable yard was. It housed new labs, cloakrooms, rooms for art and domestic science and four classrooms.

The Second World War

During the War the building was used as an Education Office and Red Cross depot, while the school was evacuated to Bedford.

Early in the war the building was painted brown and green as camouflage. Most of the windows got broken and were replaced with cloth. Blast walls were built in the long corridors, from floor to ceiling. Walls were reinforced with sandbags. Girls sat in the corridor during air-raids. There was an air raid shelter near the Greek theatre for use by those having games. The wooden ionic half-columns on the main staircase were destroyed during the bombing.

1941: School returned to the South Wing and main building. The North Wing housed Woodford Green Primary School.

1944: A V1 rocket blew windows out & exams had to continue in pencil in the twisty passage.

1945: The blast walls were removed by the Royal Engineers. Essex County Council repainted the walls after the camouflage of the war years.

Post-War

1950s: The top floor was occupied by the Upper VIth and a teacher (Dr Smith) lived in the flat.

1958-1965: Five new science labs were built.

1962: A new Physics laboratory was completed. It was the first new building for 20 years.

1974: The one-storey building on the tennis court was completed as a Lower Sixth/art room.

1988: New lab and new technology room.

1993: The Sixth Form block refurbished.

1995: A Maths / Science extension added. There were now 9 labs.

2007: The Sports Hall was opened by Iain Duncan Smith (MP for Chingford & Woodford Green) and Stephen Dunmore (Chief Executive of the Big Lottery Fund).

2010: Old gym / changing rooms converted to a conference room and computer suite.

2012: Two further computer suites added.

2013: Greek Theatre restored.

Year 12 Trip to the Wallace Collection

Tucked away in a corner of Central London is the absolute treasure that is The Wallace Collection, a world-renowned museum accommodating a range of gorgeous artefacts from the 15th to 19th Centuries. The treasury is fairly inconspicuous from the outside, and not amazingly publicized. An eight minute walk from Bond Street Station should make it almost as popular to Londoners as The Natural History Museum or the V&A but unfortunately many people living in its home city haven't even heard of it. A valuable point to note is that it is absolutely free! So visiting the museum and being able to go shopping afterwards just a few minutes' walk away is a total bargain.

This was a fantastic opportunity for Year 12 students to enhance our previous knowledge, as well as our current learning, and to get a real sense of what life was like during the French Revolution.

The Wallace Collection itself was truly a cave of wonders for a historian. Just a few steps through the entrance hall you can feast your eyes on the beautiful interior architecture and luxurious ornaments elegantly displayed throughout the rooms. It was easy to actually *feel* you were in the study of King Louis. Even the wallpaper was beautiful, the colours and textures changing throughout the rooms. Perhaps a little too grand for a living room, but it would not look out of place in any majestic palace of the world. Having learnt a lot about the everyday lives of the common people in our lessons, this experience enabled us to really understand why it was so difficult for the wealthier members of society to sympathise with the poorer ones, and why this led to a break down in communication between the different social groups. Beautifully ornate desks, colourful ceramic dinner sets, porcelain pen stands and luxuriously decorated snuff boxes were just some of the common possessions of the French nobility. A typical member of the Third Estate, much like us, could not have dreamed of owning such expensive items, and it was precisely this contrast which made life and outlook, so different for each social class. The gilt, enamel, porcelain and precious stones of the nobility would have contrasted massively with the mud, stone and wood of the poor, and this insight into regal existence helped us to understand the mentality of those in power during the *Ancien Regime*, the system of authority in 18th Century France.

The lectures given to Year 12 were by author and historian Jocelyn Hunt, who kept the students interested and entertained with her enthusiasm and passion for her work and The Collection. Not only did she give us background information on the royal routine, but she also gave us juicy details of intimate family life in the household, and this gave our historical personalities a human face and helped us empathise with them further. We came to understand in more depth exactly why peasants were becoming increasingly angry and desperate in the years preceding 1789, with regards to Royal Income and Expenditure. This helped us to put into perspective the economic crisis at the time and some of King Louis XIV's primary concerns

Touching upon some of the events following the revolutionary year of 1789 enabled us to gain an idea of the implication the events we have recently been learning about had. Debates amongst the nobility and clergy regarding slavery, votes for women and, arguably most importantly, capital punishment came to light after 1789, as did suggestions to change the French calendar. It was during this period of time that the infamous guillotine was designed, tested and approved for use. Having had an insight into what is to come in our AS History course, we all left from the Wallace Collection inspired, enlightened and more desirous to learn than ever before.

Sabah Hussain Yr 12 & Nazia Sohail Yr 12



Prize Giving 2013



Woodford's annual prize giving took place on Thursday 14th November this year.

The Headteacher's report highlighted the achievement of all the students at Woodford and students described a few of the new initiatives and visits from last year. These included the expedition to Cambodia, the Arts Summer Showcase and the visit of Olympian, Louis Smith.



The two musical items performed by Herkiran Kambo and Inova Lee both impressed and entertained the audience of students, parents, teachers, governors and guests.



We were delighted to welcome back to Woodford Miss Harleen Kaur Deol, our guest speaker and former Head Girl of the school. Harleen is now a consultant breast surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth II hospital in Hertfordshire, having been awarded one of only nine National Fellowships in oncoplastic breast surgery in 2010. She started her surgical training in 1999, becoming the first woman to be awarded entry to the Royal London Hospital Surgical training rotation after 21 years.



Picture Above: Guest speaker Harleen Kaur Deol

In her speech, Harleen emphasised how privileged students at Woodford were to have access to such a good education and how this would help them face the challenges of achieving highly as a woman in the world of work. She also encouraged and inspired the students to realise their goals and be resilient when facing setbacks.

The achievements of the students receiving their GCSE certificates together with those of the prize winners from other year groups were celebrated as the prizes and certificates were presented.

**Ms Bickley
Acting Deputy Head**



The Classics Play 2013

On Tuesday 26th November, a lunchtime production of a selection of stories from Ovid's *Metamorphoses* was performed in the frosty yet serenely atmospheric Greek theatre hidden away from the main school building.

The stories in question were 'Teiresias', a tale of a man blinded by Juno's (Queen of the gods) wrath, and given the gift of prophecy as consolation by Jupiter (King of the gods), the next story was that of 'Echo and Narcissus', about a handsome, yet arrogant young man who humiliated many people, and in the end was cursed to fall in love with himself and waste away as a result of his passion.

The last myth performed was 'Pentheus and Bacchus', regarding an impious king who is ripped to pieces by his own mother, as she was put in a frenzy by the new god Bacchus. Ovid's stories are highly entertaining and teach several important morals throughout. They are accessible to any audience and a brilliant source of inspiration.



Our cast members were absolutely fantastic and did the *Metamorphoses* justice. Very little bribing with biscuits and chocolate was required. The hard work they put into making this play a success is commendable. It took a lot of lunchtime and after school rehearsals to pull it together; they worked extremely well as a team and showed great passion, even with the play coinciding with House Drama rehearsals. Directing the play was a challenge in itself for us; it involved several weeks of organising the cast, writing scripts, making posters, creating props and costumes, and even adding a last minute one-woman orchestra sweeping the entire Greek theatre just in time for the production!

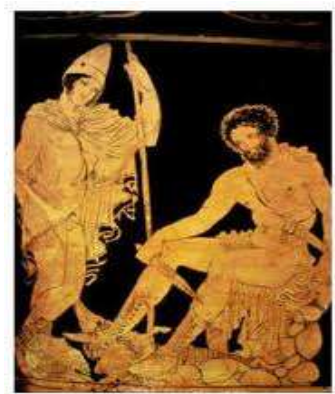
Amongst rehearsals an after-school workshop took place where the girls had the chance to work with a drama teacher to really get a feel for the characters they needed to bring to life. This opportunity proved to be very helpful and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thanks must go to Joanna Nevin (Mr McClelland's sister) for giving up her time to organise this and for offering her valuable advice and input, including writing the melody for our Latin song.

This year's Classics Play was only the second to be performed in the Greek Theatre after last year's *Medea*, making use of this fantastic space, and we can only hope this becomes a Woodford tradition.

We were very pleased with the turnout, considering the chilly air, and we are proud to say that we managed to raise more than £50 in total (with tickets at 50pence each), all of which will go towards helping in the recent Philippines disaster.

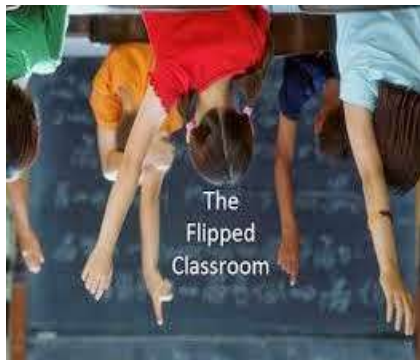


Nafseen Islam Yr 12 and Sabah Hussain Yr 12



Odysseus and Teiresias, the blind prophet

Flipping the classroom!



In light of the many changes happening in the National Curriculum as of September 2014, the opportunities for innovative and creative teaching pedagogies are being explored and tested.

One of the methodologies being piloted in schools/ colleges and universities is “**The Flipped Classroom**”. Founded by Bergman and Sam in 2007, the theory is one that takes into consideration the needs of the learner and draws upon all learning styles. It is an imaginative approach to encouraging student independence, active and reflective learning, immediate assessment and feedback and allows the use of the latest technologies.

Within the flipped classroom the typical elements of a class lesson and homework elements are reversed. The main concept is that the students view/ listen to pre-recorded lesson content via video or podcasts at home, and then engage in productive exercises during the lesson.

The pre-recorded media enables the student to view, pause, rewind, forward and repeat content as many times as required for their learning. This prepares them for a structured in-class workshop where they draw upon their learning and can carry out hands on exercises which allows their teacher to assess their work, identify their level of thinking and rectify any critical errors made in their independent learning.

The model has become very well-known and has proven to be successful during pilots in schools across London.

The start of the new computing curriculum in 2014 has provided the foundation to build the model in to the new programmes of study and it is hoped that both students and teacher will enjoy the benefits of a new and inventive practice.

For more info:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/nationalcollege/conference2013-flipping-the-classroom>

Miss N. Chadee , Head of Computing and ICT

8R Visit to Boulogne.



On the 18th of October 2013, 8R went to Boulogne, France. The aim of the day was for students to practise their French as much as possible and to raise their

awareness of French culture. The day started early and after a short crossing (35 minutes) between Folkestone and Calais, Year 8s were able to chant ‘Bonjour la France’. As we drove to Boulogne, students were given information about Napoleon, local hobbies / industries and the aquarium (Nausicaa). Nausicaa is one of the biggest aquariums in Europe and students marvelled at jelly fish, sharks and colourful tropical fish. We then moved to the town itself with a visit to the castle and mention of the miracle of Boulogne. Unfortunately we could not visit the Cathedral as it was closed for maintenance work. We had a short walk on the walls of the town. Rue de Lille allowed students to seek extra information from menus at local restaurants and eat a ‘crêpe’. Most of them were walking around with a beret! We ended the trip in Auchan, a French supermarket, with, there again, tasks to achieve and prices to find out and the opportunity to buy some tasty cheeses! We all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Next trip for year 8 to Boulogne is March the 28th.

Dr Maldjian

Modern Foreign Languages Department





Woodford County High School Sports Profiles

Stephanie Smith Year 13

Hello my name is Stephanie Smith and I play rugby. Although it might be an unusual sport for a girl to play I've been playing since I was little, and I really enjoy playing with my team- Saracens. We are an all-girl team, and playing sport is a great opportunity to meet new people. Not only is it a very exciting game, there is loads of banter in training and after matches. We train once a week on Thursday evenings and play matches on Sundays. I play in the flanker position which is the outer edge of the scrum. I have also represented Middlesex at County rugby.



World Championships 2013 - Medals Ceremony

Woodford County High School Sports Profile

Riona Jayakody 11R – Karate

My name is Riona Jayakody and I am a member of the UKA, which is part of Shikon, Karate Sport England. I have been practising for almost 6 years (since I was 10 years old). I am a black belt (1st Dan) and regularly participate in National competitions.

I was recently selected to represent England at the Cadet/Junior World Championships from the 10th-13th October which took place in Caorle, Venice, Italy. I, along with the English National Squad, spent a week in Venice and attended the competition at the weekend.

The competition was excellent, with entries from all over the world. It was, without a doubt, an experience of a lifetime and I enjoyed every minute of it, especially as I became World Champion 2013 in my category (15-16 year olds). I ended the competition with 2 Gold medals (Individual Fighting and Team Rotation Fighting) and 1 silver medal (Team Fighting).

Team England won a total of 20 Gold medals, leaving us 2nd overall in the Medals Table (Italy winning 1st place).



England National Squad 2013

Geography Department



Autumn 2013

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the department's second visit to Iceland. At the end of October 30 students experienced the

wonder of thundering waterfalls, spouting hot (and smelly) geysers, crashing Atlantic Ocean waves, a snowball fight and much, much more.

The thoughts of two students who went on the visit are written below.

If you are in search of an exquisite country, with an appealing shot of scenery wherever you look, look no further than Iceland. Aspects such as outstretched miles of



eye-catching mountains, black sand beaches and waterfalls everywhere you look are really what made this trip worthwhile. From outdoor swimming when it's 0° outside, walking on glaciers, to learning

how to pronounce 'Eyjafjallajökull' properly, Iceland is certainly the ideal country to visit.

Natasha A

Getting to chance to walk over a glacier was the chance of a lifetime and it was incredible. We learnt Icelandic words, how to properly pronounce one of our case studies – E-jökul – and how to say our names in Icelandic. The 'eggy' smell as we swam in the Blue Lagoon was an experience we'll never forget but sliding down a water slide, whilst the outside temperature was just 0°, was unbelievably cold, yet extraordinarily cool – no pun intended! A snowball fight against Mr Saxton, making 'snow angels' and finding metre long icicles was mind-blowingly fun. Overall the trip allowed us to discover a love for geography and even made us consider the idea of going to University there (it's free!).

Harini

A huge thank you to parents involved for supporting this visit. Unfortunately, an insufficient number of students have expressed a wish to go next year so there will not be a 3rd visit in the autumn of 2014. However, we very much hope to offer the same, or similar, trip again next year (2015).

Apart from the chilly winds of Iceland, earlier in the term the department took the whole of Year 9 to Clacton-on-Sea - for our annual investigation into the impacts of tourism – and to Greenwich, with the GCSE students, to collect important primary data for their Controlled Assessment. (see next page) Finally, our most recent 'outside the classroom' opportunity was for Year 13 students who spent a day listening to lectures relating to different processes and issues to do with 'plate tectonics', including a key note speech from TV presented Professor Ian Stewart.



Clacton – 9W

Clacton -9H



Clacton -9R



Clacton -9N



Greenwich – 11B



Greenwich – 11D



Greenwich – 11B



Reading Week and The Reading Project The School Council

The English Department are keen that all students at Woodford read regularly. This is a terrific way for students to develop their literacy skills and has been proven to aid them in subjects such as Maths and Science also. With this in mind, the Department have introduced two new initiatives this term, Reading Week and The Reading Project.

For this year's Reading Week, staff volunteered to talk to students about their own love of reading and some of their favourite novels. Posters advertising some of the benefits of reading, both academic and emotional, adorned the walls as a way of reminding students of why we ask them to read. Students also made suggestions of their favourite books on a 'living wall' in the English corridor. We are hoping to make next year's Reading Week bigger and better by inviting guest speakers in and holding a range of activities during students' assembly time.

Students in years 7, 8 and 9 have been working on the Reading Project this term. The project was introduced by the English Department to encourage the reading and enjoyment of good quality literature and to give students the opportunity to express their ideas about their reading through discussion and presentations. Year 7 focused on novels in the adventure genre, with a significant number of students widening their reading horizons and taking up challenging texts such as 'Lord of the Rings'. Year 8 students have been focusing on the gothic genre where the development of the vampire from Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' through to Stephenie Meyer's 'Twilight' has been of particular interest for students. In year 9, students have been reading dystopian fiction. John Wyndham's 'Day of the Triffids' has proved a particular favourite with this year group. The Reading Project is also available for students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and we hope that it will gain in popularity as the year progresses.

Ms Charlton – English Department

School Birthday Writing Competition

The English Department organised the activity for Year 8 this School Birthday. Students were encouraged to respond to images of the school over the years through their creative writing. Many students took up the opportunity to submit their writing to a competition. The quality of writing was very high, but a winner had to be selected. Well done to Ilana Aaron in 8W whose story, 'Sophie through the Portal', won the competition.

We have encouraged students who submitted entries to the competition to put them forward for publication in our school magazine, 'White Socks', which publishes some of the best writing from across the year at the end of the summer term.

Ms Charlton – English Department

This year, big changes have happened to school council with an overcrowded room of 40 being reduced to a more efficient and effective body of 10 school councillors. This restructuring has reinvigorated the role of school council with pupils having more of an opportunity to get their voice heard and meetings tackling problems in a more succinct manner. The aim of school council to improve the school has seen several projects undertaken. The school governor, who sat in on one of the meetings, commented on the quality and direction of their discussions.

The girls who passed the voting and interview stages to become school councillors are as following:

Year 7: Zaynab Dar
Taybah Crie

Year 8: Anjola Sofuyi
Vidya Divakaran

Year 9: Zahra Rashid – Treasurer
Ashley Singh

Year 10: Harshita Vycuntam
Iman Ilyas – Social Chairperson

Year 11: Sabeeha Ahmed
Kajol Patel - Secretary



There's no better way to 'bag' your enrichment!

Excited by the prospect of adding a dash of creativity to our Wednesday afternoons, a bunch of us artistic Year 12s signed up to design and print our very own canvas bags at the start of the Autumn Term. Led by Miss Campbell, we kick-started our mini project by trying to define and interpret our theme of 'Structure'. This involved devising detailed, thoughtful mind-maps to invoke our individual sub-themes, followed by a period of secondary sourcing using the internet. Already, our design pages were being filled up with patterns, vibrant colours and ideas. We were then given the task of using photography to communicate our ideas after an insightful introductory lesson into the various functions of a camera was given by Miss Campbell, during which we were able to use an SLR camera to experiment with the great plethora of effects that could be achieved by just pressing a few buttons! We then created a preliminary design of a practice lino print, planning carefully the different coloured layers followed by carving our designs into the lino and using printing ink to create them. After a process of refining our designs, we were finally ready to print our designs onto our canvas bags! The results have been rewarding and we now all possess lively, striking and somewhat funky canvas bags to show off to the other Year 12s next term!

Tasneem Mahmud
Year 12

Photo's : Year 12 students get creative for Enrichment





Arts Careers Evening

Art A-level and GCSE students had the opportunity to meet an array of professionals with art-based careers at artist Haroon Mirza's studio in North London. There were lots of different people with careers

in the arts; painters, installation artists, photographers, gallery owners plus graphic, fashion and product designers.

This helped me gain an insight into the endless number of possible careers I may choose to pursue one day. We brought along our sketchbooks and received feedback on the development of our projects which was helpful, and allowed us to express the deeper meaning behind our work and to communicate our concepts better. Likewise, the studio was jam-packed with Woodford students flicking through portfolios and conversing with artists about their work. The evening as a whole was very enjoyable especially as it took place in a studio environment, creating an arty and comfortable vibe which motivated and excited me.

It was truly inspirational to hear about the day-to-day lives of so many types of artists and designers and how passionate they are about their work. I can only hope that one day too I will feel the same way about my own career.

Anita Vimalanathan Year 12

*Artists and students sharing ideas at Haroon Mirza's Studio)
(Left and pictures below)*



Woodford Green A.C. Cross-country League at Claybury Park

The Woodford Green A.C. 3 race cross country league 2013 got off to a flying start at Claybury Park on Thursday 26th September. With more competitors than ever before the Woodford team had to really work hard to hold their position on the start line. The girls were prepared with a race plan from their walk around the course and went full throttle over the varying terrain. After week one the Y7&8 teams sat in 4th and 7th position and the Y9&10 teams placed 5th and 7th. We needed to move our performance up a gear. In week two the girls really outdid themselves, most of them improving by 5 or more positions. We got a healthy lead in the Junior competition; A team sat in 1st place and the B team holding on to 4th place, the intermediate team placed 4th and 5th. In the final race it was all to play for, when the weather took a turn for the worse. The course was muddy underfoot and the rain lashed down as the race set off. The Woodford teams showed real grit and determination and emerged triumphant; the final results are shown below. There were some outstanding individual performances from a number of girls, but Annali Olivelle reigned supreme in the junior competition with a staggering 1st place hat-trick. Congratulations to all the girls that competed. I'm really looking forward to the Y7 competition after Christmas.

Year 7 & 8 Results

Position	School	Points
1st	Woodford County High School A Team	120
2 nd	Wanstead	142
3 rd	Ursuline Academy	257
4th	Woodford County High School B Team	276

Year 7 & 8 Individual Rankings

Position	Name	Points
1 st	Annali Olivelle	3
6 th	Ella Conlon-Murphy	29
8th	Abinayaa Asokan	41

Year 9 & 10 Results

Position	School	Points
1st	Wanstead	45
2 nd	West Hatch	144
3 rd	Woodbridge	157
4th	Woodford County High A	162
5th	Woodford County High B	251

Year 9 & 10 Individual Rankings

Position	Name	Points
= 7th	Megan Bradley	28



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.

The 2013 Woodford Christmas card was designed by Zahra Sharif in 7R.

