

WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE: April 2023

Enabling aspiration and achievement for all through delivery of a knowledge-rich curriculum underpinned by our CORE values:

C

COURAGE

O

OPTIMISM

R

REGARD

E

ENDEAVOUR

WELCOME

As ever, we have had a busy but productive and positive term. Careers development, inter-house sports, musical performances, chess tournaments and a range of school trips have characterised a rich offer in terms of the wider curriculum that we are so proud to provide for our students. On top of this, after school boosters and surgeries for Y11 students have been underway and well attended by students seeking some extra support, input or clarification in their GCSE study and revision. Well done to all that have taken part in any activity beyond the classroom, be that in school or outside; we are delighted when we hear about your achievements.

This academic year, we have had an excellent response to the Woodlands' Fundamental Five as outlined below. A recent visit from the local authority commended the swift and effective start to lessons and the calm, focused climate for learning in classrooms and around school. Students in lessons are being asked to reflect on their work and to make improvements based on feedback, sometimes to the whole class and often based on what the class need to revisit. Being willing to be taken out of our comfort zone and expect more of ourselves is a vital part of improvement and we want pupils to see this as a great opportunity and a mark of respect when they are challenged to do better and be better.

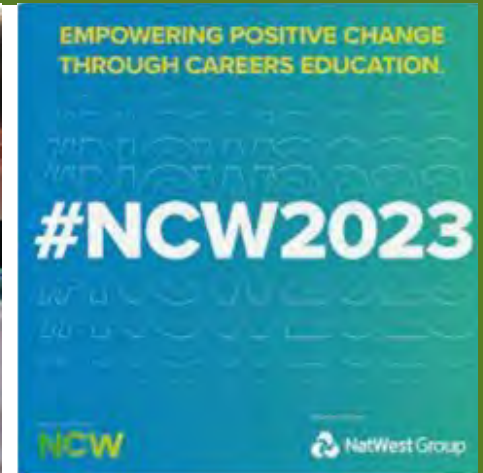
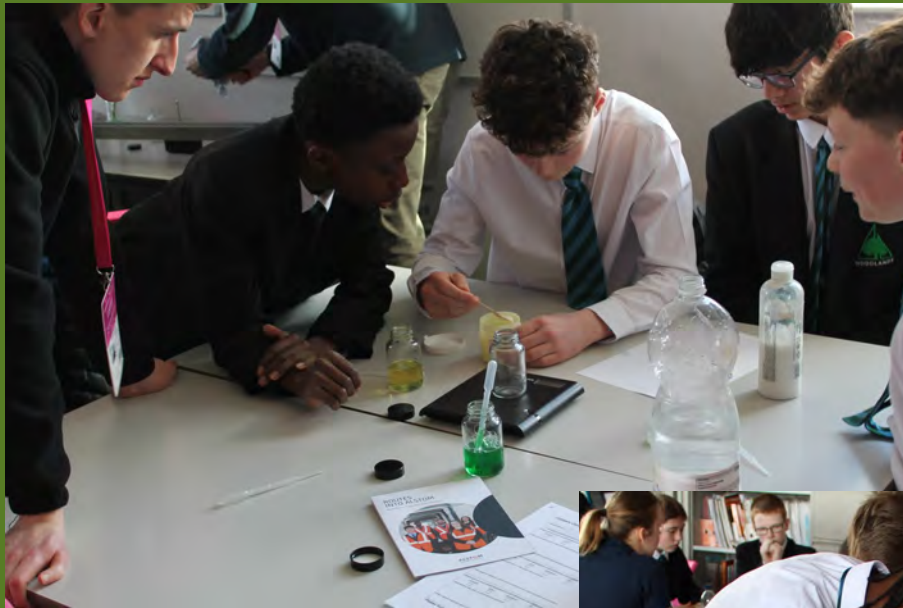
Woodlands' Fundamental Five

Ready to Learn	Complete the 'Do Now'	Focus on Learning	Challenge Ourselves	Make Improvements
What this means...				
<p>Arrive on time Line up calmly by the classroom Meet and greet my teacher at the door</p>	<p>Enter calmly and settle quickly Get stationery out ready to begin Complete the 'Do Now' task</p>	<p>Write down what I am learning today Focus on the learning activities Show regard for other students</p>	<p>Complete my best classwork and home learning Work towards the challenge activities Ask for support to improve my work</p>	<p>Take advice Respond to feedback Use the feedback to make my work even better</p>
We do this because...				
<p>A calm start to the lesson prepares our minds for learning</p> <p>#Regard</p>	<p>Thinking hard makes learning happen</p> <p>#Endeavour</p>	<p>Practising our learning helps it to stick in our long-term memory</p> <p>#Endeavour</p>	<p>Challenging ourselves and asking for support helps us to improve</p> <p>#Courage</p>	<p>Taking advice and making improvements helps us to achieve our best</p> <p>#Optimism</p>

As we break for a couple of weeks, we would like to wish our community Ramadan Mubarak, Happy Easter; peace and rest for all. Here's to longer days and more sunshine.



National Careers Week



National careers week gave all of our students the opportunity to reflect upon their own careers journey during sessions run in registration. Mrs Weightman had a wealth of careers information and resources in the LRC for pupils to explore and there was a school-wide treasure hunt quiz which encouraged students to find out about different career routes and the local labour market . The results of the Quiz were as follows:

1st place 9R1

2nd place 8M2

3rd place 7O2

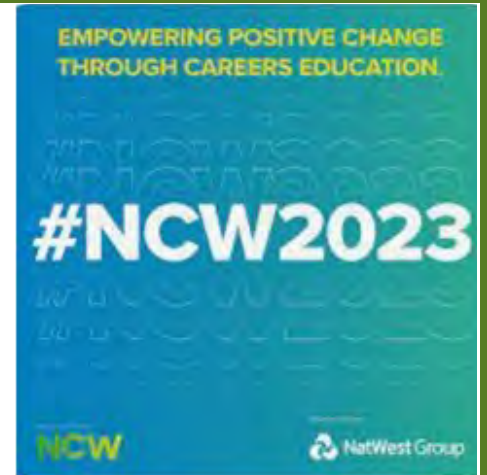
Year 8 had a Careers Carousel where they rotated around different sessions, run by local companies to learn about exciting career opportunities in the local area. The employers included the Police, Rolls Royce, Alstom, Lubrizol, Penguin Publishing and a law firm.

The students took part in a ramp challenge, managed a submarine, built marshmallow towers, made an advertising campaign, and had a

demo of police equipment amongst many other things. They came away full of excitement and enthusiasm and with a wealth of information for different careers in the local area and beyond.



National Careers Week



Year 11 were visited by the army who set up a scenario in the gym which required them to use teamwork, logical and communication skills to come up with solutions and save a casualty under ever-changing and time restricted circumstances. Afterwards, the students were given individual feedback on their strengths and weaknesses in the task to encourage them to work on their skills for the future. The students were commended for how they approached the scenario and the casualty was saved from the situation each time. Some of the students really shone out and came away with a lot more confidence as a result of the feedback that they received.



During National Careers week there was careers focus in all lessons, enabling students to link their learning in class to different careers. The students were also encouraged to think about the employability skills that they are developing in lessons, such as group work and presentation skills.

UCAS

On Tuesday 14th March, Year 12 had their next steps Part A morning in school where they were exploring the different career options available to them for when they leave sixth form in the summer of 2024. They had a workshop with Derby University who spoke about why go to university and about the wide range of courses available to the students. One interesting fact was that there are over 50,000 different university courses to choose from! Secondly, they had a presentation about apprenticeships where they explored the different types of apprenticeships and compared the benefits of taking a full-time degree to a higher-level apprenticeship. Whilst also looking at the local labour market information in Derbyshire and how this was changing. Finally, Miss Thornton gave an inspirational talk about an example of a gap year that she experienced which was with camp America. Here she talked about and showed her fun experiences at Kamp Kohut and then offered the students a phenomenal opportunity to apply to work at Kamp Kohut through her contacts in the summer of 2025. Not only did it inspire the Year 12's to apply for the camp it also broadened their ideas of what a gap year could be. A big thank-you to all the speakers that spent time with the Year 12's. But also, to the students themselves who worked really hard throughout the morning, engaged with the speakers and definitely went away with a lot more information and practical steps to help them make their final decision on their next steps for the end of Year 13. We look forward to supporting the students in refining their career choices over the summer term ahead of their next steps part B on July 17th. Where they will start the process of applying for their next steps.

Below is a breakdown of Year 12's first choice for their next steps in 2024.

2024 Projected

University	60%
Apprenticeship	30%
Gap	8%
Job/Employment	2%

Year 12 Educational Visit To The UCAS Exhibition At The Derby Area

As part of our sixth form Careers programme, we took all of Year 12 to the UCAS exhibition at the Derby Arena on 17th March. The students met hundreds of universities, colleges, apprenticeship providers and employers to help them discover more about their future, post sixth form. This experience built upon their recent Next steps Part A morning in school and how we are building towards starting the application process for their next steps in late summer term.

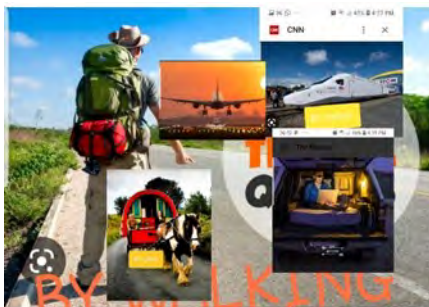
Year 7 Inter-House Photography Competition

The start of this half term saw the results of the first Year 7 inter-house photography competition at AWS. Year 7 students were set the task of taking a photo using any type of camera on the theme of Travel and the competition attracted a good number of entries. We were incredibly lucky to have Huw Davies, Professor of Lens Media at the University of Derby, to judge the entries, and he had the difficult task of choosing the winners in the technical and artistic categories, and the overall winning form. The results are below:

Technical

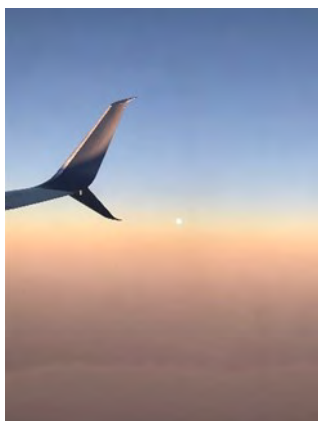


Winner:
Isaac Jones,
7M2



Runner up: Favour Coker-Longe, 7M2

Artistic



Winner:
Alessia Bernardi
7O1



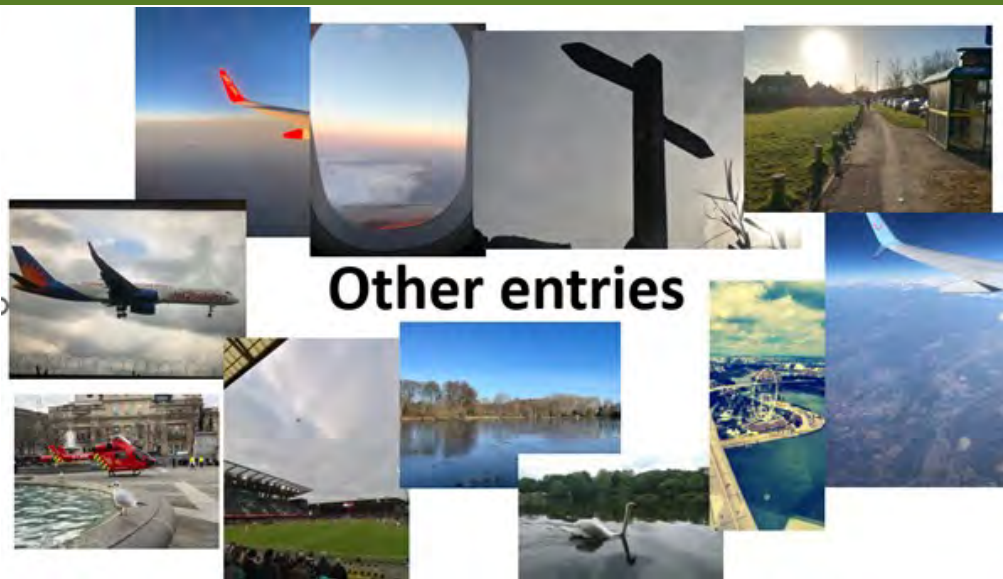
Runner up: Alicia Green, 7R1



The overall form winners were
7M2!



Year 7 Inter-House Photography Competition



Professor Davies was incredibly impressed by the standard of entries and encouraged all the students to continue to explore their creativity using photography. We are very grateful that Professor Davies took time to judge our competition given that he did so (through the clever use of technology) whilst out of the country! Well done to everyone who entered.

Sixth Form Coaching Sessions

We are pleased to share a group of sixth formers who have recently given up their time to coach a selection of Year 11s in their chosen subject. The coaching sessions were designed to give the Year 11s a glimpse into the world of A-levels, and to prepare them for the academic and personal demands of post-16 study. The sixth formers shared their own experiences and offered practical advice on time-management, study skills, and subject-specific challenges. They also provided stretch and challenge questions to help the Year 11s understand the jump from KS4 to KS5 and the level of academic rigor required at A-levels.

The coaching sessions were not only beneficial for the Year 11s, but also provided an opportunity for the sixth formers to develop their own leadership and communication skills. By taking on the role of mentors and coaches, they gained valuable experience in supporting and motivating others, as well as developing their own subject knowledge and understanding.

Overall, this initiative demonstrated the willingness of sixth formers to give back to their school community and support younger students in their academic journey.

We hope that this initiative will inspire other students to take on leadership roles and become positive role models for their peers. With initiatives like this, we can create a culture of collaboration and support within our schools, and help all students to reach their full potential.

A-Level Maths External Speaker

We were incredibly lucky to have Ben Green, Waynflete Professor of Mathematics from the University of Oxford, speak over Teams to some of our Year 11, 12 and 13 students (15 in total) who have an interest in Maths, at the start of this half term. Professor Green focused first on what a professional mathematician does, and then detailed some very famous, relatively easy to understand, unsolved mathematical problems and how they relate to ideas and concepts that are covered in school level mathematics. These included the Twin Prime conjecture and the Collatz conjecture, and the talk then sparked some interesting and insightful questions from our students. It was satisfying to see that some of the Maths studied in school is very much at the heart of current and on-going work by mathematicians all around the world. We are very grateful to Professor Green for giving up his time to talk to our students.



Allestree Woodlands Rewards



AWS is relaunching rewards after the Easter break to greater recognise the achievements our students.

WEEKLY

1. Year 13 to 7 will get weekly rewards points.
2. Each Year group will have 8 Golden Tickets given by the Head of Year (queue jumps for chip day and atrium tokens)
3. Subject and form tutors will give out achievement post cards
4. Form tutors will communicate reward point totals

The student leadership team will meet to discuss and vote for what the reward points achieve.

HALF TERMLY

5. Reward Assemblies will continue.
6. Subject letters and pastoral will go out that recognise CORE values and achievement.

Please do encourage students to let their form tutors know of any achievement out of school.

Form Tutor Awards

A huge congratulations to all of our Year 7 Award Winners for their outstanding spring term.
Well done to all of you!

Miss Smith
Head of Year 7

Form Tutor Awards - 7C1

- ▶ Livia Presbury
- ▶ Nathan Fielding



Form Tutor Awards - 7C2

- ▶ Grace Bowler
- ▶ Charlie Mulholland



Form Tutor Awards - 7M1

- ▶ Emmie Ames
- ▶ Oscar Fahey



Form Tutor Awards - 7M2

- ▶ Corben Newbold-Eyre
- ▶ Freddie Harrison



Form Tutor Awards - 7O1

- ▶ Jamie Beesley
- ▶ Hector Kay



Form Tutor Awards - 7O2

- ▶ Sadie Payne
 - ▶ for consistently sharing wonderful and thought-provoking ideas into class discussion, giving 100% effort everyday.
- ▶ Heath Dhlakama
 - ▶ for best newcomer, always positive and ready to learn. Fits into our form perfectly.



Form Tutor Awards - 7R1

- ▶ Sophie Garner
 - ▶ positive, polite, helpful and ready to learn. Takes an active role in all form activities.
- ▶ Daniel Gyurchev
 - ▶ positive, proactive and helpful to other members of the form. Makes insightful contributions to class discussions too.



Form Tutor Awards - 7R2

- ▶ Alfie McKeown
- ▶ Krystal-Mae Walker



Form Tutor Awards

Headteacher Award

► Niyah Webb 7O2



Head of Year Award

► Erin Bucknall 7R2



Head of KS3 Award

► Evan Hills 7C2



Top 7 Student for Achievement Points Sept-March 2022-2023

- Theo Beaney
- Gabriel Curd
- Iman Shaibu
- Bobby Nowaczyk
- Ashley Walford
- Oliver East
- Thomas Curren
- Jude Dawkins



Top 12 for Achievement Points Spring Term 2022-2023

- Bobby Nowaczyk 7R2
- Iman Shaibu 7M2
- Theo Beaney 7R1
- Jude Dawkins 7O2
- Edward Fletcher 7O2
- Krystal-Mae Walker 7R2
- Isaac Jones 7M2
- Livia Presbury 7C1
- Emily Stapleton 7O2
- Sadie Payne 7O2
- Dexter Rigby 7R2
- Harry Davies 7M2
- Beau Turner 7C1
- Ashley Walford 7R1



Critical Thinking Competition

Woodlands have recently started a Critical thinking competition in which KS4 students are giving the opportunity to answer Oxbridge questions. Winners have been awarded with amazon gift cards – 1st prize £10 and 2nd prize £5.

Most recent Winners

Biology – Andrew Topham and Chloe Houghton

English – Ashneet Thandi and Abbie Dayman

Miss Vickers-Smith

Spring Concert 2023



Spring Concert 2023



National Deaf Cross Country



Our deaf students had a great day taking part in the National Deaf Cross Country Championships at Markeaton Park. Although we didn't get any medal winners there were some great performances and some tired legs!!

Activity Day



Years 7, 8 & 9 Activity Day

THURSDAY 20TH JULY 2023

This year's Activities will include:

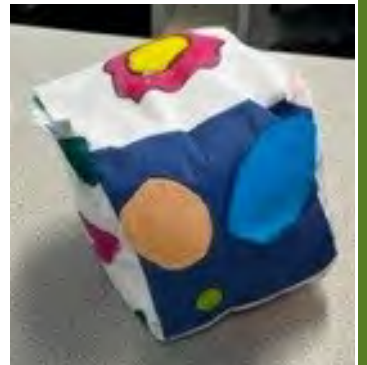
- Alton Towers
 - Drayton Manor
 - Spring Lakes
 - Cadbury World
 - Yorkshire Wildlife Park
 - Splash Landings
 - Mountain Biking
 - Paint the Landscape
 - Inflatables
 - Films
 - Baking
 - Sports Activities
- More information will come out on Satchel One with the booking process.

Andorra Trip



During February half term, 89 students and 11 staff travelled to Andorra for a week's skiing at the resort of Pal. A fantastic time was had by all and we experienced the full range of ski weather, from blazing sun to blizzard conditions. Watch out for news of the 2024 trip, which will be announced soon.

Year 7 Beautiful Textile Work



Here are some amazing cubes made by some fabulous year 7's. The theme was pop art, and these designs , techniques and outcomes did not disappoint.

Well done year 7.

Miss Elson and Mrs Curtis.

Ramadan

Mubarak (Happy Ramadan)

What is Ramadan?

Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. In Ramadan, Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate.

Ramadan is a month of intense spiritual rejuvenation with a heightened focus on devotion, during which Muslims spend extra time reading the Qur'an and performing special prayers. Those unable to fast, such as pregnant or nursing women, the sick, or elderly people and children, are exempt from fasting.

Muslims fast from pre-dawn to sunset, a fast of between 11-16 hours depending on the time of year for a period of 29-30 days. Ramadan entails no food and drink.

Where can you go?

We are pleased to announce there is now a prayer room available for those students who wish to pray during afternoon lunch in Room 2117 (Miss Khalila) There will be some prayer mats provided but it is preferable to bring your own if you are able to.

What can you do?

This year Ramadan will commence on Wednesday 22nd of March till the evening of Friday 21st of April with perhaps a few days difference depending on Islamic school followed.

For Muslims, Ramadan is a time to train themselves both physically and spiritually by avoiding any negative acts such as gossiping, backbiting, lying or arguing. Muslims welcome Ramadan as an opportunity for self-reflection and spiritual improvement, and as a means to grow in moral excellence.

Please be considerate of your peers during this time regardless of whether they are observing Ramadan or not. This will be an excellent opportunity to display our CORE values within school. If you have any questions or would like to know more about this holy month, feel free to respectfully ask students who are fasting or a member of staff.

HAVE YOUR SAY IN OUR SHADOWING BOOK GROUP



yoto
**CARNEGIE
GREENAWAY
AWARDS**

Meet with friends.

Discuss.

Read.

Vote.



Medal for Writing Shortlist 2023
#YotoCarnegies23 | YotoCarnegies.co.uk

The yoto Carnegies

Which book might win an award?

Medal for Illustration Shortlist 2023
#YotoCarnegies23 | YotoCarnegies.co.uk

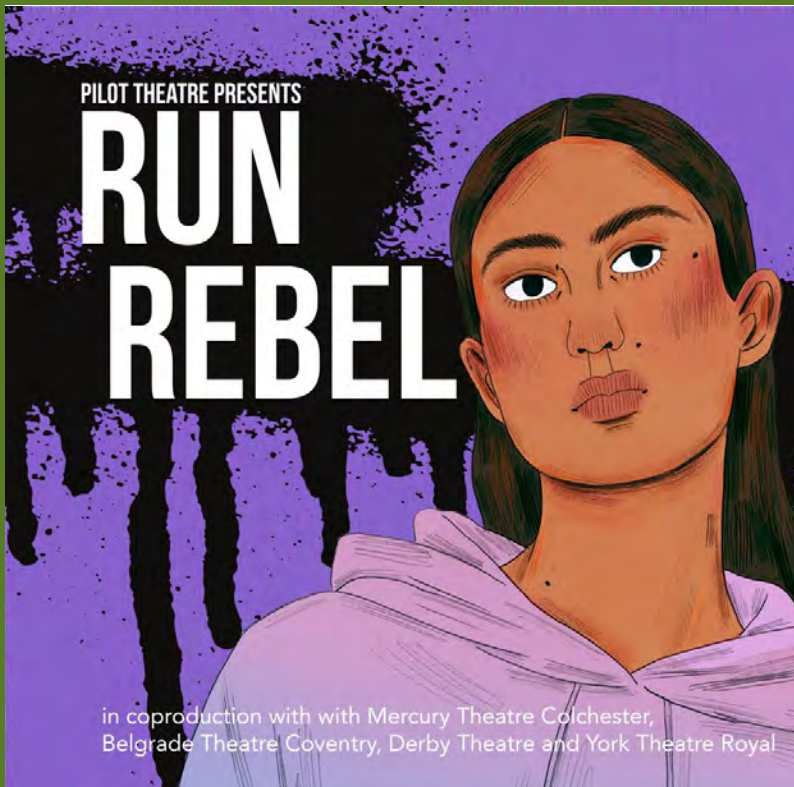
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ASK IN THE LIBRARY FOR MORE INFORMATION!

JOIN THE DEBATE

#booktalk

#AwsReads Everyone is invited



On Tuesday 18th March, GCSE and A Level Drama Students went to Derby Theatre to watch Pilot Theatre Company's production of Run Rebel. The exciting production was an adaptation of Manreet Mann's novel and students will now analyse the production and now use it to inspire their own devised work.

Do you fancy an evening watching fantastic theatre?



Do you want to escape into a different world for a couple of hours?



We are delighted to let you know you have access to Digital Theatre+ for another year. All staff and students can now access Digital Plus and view a wide range of theatre productions as well as documentaries about theatre practitioners and behind the scenes videos from home.



The link for Digital Theatre + has been sent out to all students via teams. To access the plays you will need to log in using your school email address and password. If you need any help, please email Mrs Oldham (h.oldham@woodlands.derby.sch.uk).

Sport News

The year 8 netball team won the Derby City tournament on 21st March at Allestree Woodlands School. They won all of their games.

Derby Cathedral 5-0

Lees Brook 5-1

Murray Park 6-0

West Park 4-3

Semi final Derby High 2-1

Final v Littleover 5-3



A huge congratulations!

Clara Baker

Lois Beard

Millie Watkins

Esteemed Downes

Mia Ward

Jessica Hubner

Harmony Monk

Asha Banga

Evie Johnson.

Mrs Palmer-Blount

Physical Education Teacher

Safeguarding Team

THE WOODLANDS SAFEGUARDING TEAM



Mrs Brailsford
Assistant Head
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Roe
Deputy Head
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Lawmon
Attendance Officer
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Bailey
Student Wellbeing
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Woodlands is committed to the safety and protection of students. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team or email safeguarding@woodlands.derby.sch.uk



Courage | Optimism | Respect | Endeavour

TO SAFEGUARD THE STUDENT COMMUNITY

Heads of Year Contact Details

Should parents/carers have any concerns regarding their child, could they please initially contact their Form Tutors. Thereafter, the next point of contact would be the following Heads of Year:

Head of Year 7

Helen Smith
h.smith@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Head of Year 8

Helen Curr
h.curr@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Head of Year 9

Emily Pitter
e.pitter@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Head of Year 10

Lucy Colley
l.colley@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

Head of Year 11

Damon Hammond
d.hammond@woodlands.derby.sch.uk

KEY DATES

Monday 17th April—Return to School for Summer Term

Tuesday 18th April—Year 12 Geography Coast Field Work

Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th April—Year 11 Field Trip To Allestree Park

Thursday 20th April—Meet The Tutor 4:00-7:30

Friday 21st April—**School Closed** except for Meet The Tutor 8:30-12:15

Monday 1st May – Bank Holiday

Monday 8th May—Bank Holiday (King's Coronation)

Friday 12th May—Year 13 Leavers Day

Monday 15th May—Year 11 and Year 13 Exams Begin

Wednesday 24th—Thursday 25th May—Year 8 Subject Evening 4:00pm-7:00pm

Monday 22nd—Friday 26th May—Sixth Form Work Experience

Friday 26th May—Break Up for Summer Half Term

W/C 17th July—Year 10 Work Experience