

WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE: December 2022

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 we end a long and busy term, we have a great deal to celebrate from 2022. This year has seen some return to pre-pandemic life for us at school. Students' uniform has been superb following a gentle push on this earlier in the term. We are immensely grateful to families for supporting their children in being in school, looking the part and ready to learn.

This term, we have introduced the Woodlands Fundamental 5 and students have engaged really well with the routines and expectations. We continue our development of this and raising the bar further as we go into the new year.



We are very proud of the hard work and achievements of our students, many of who are mentioned by name in this newsletter but the majority of whom are not. Our celebration assemblies have given a chance to say well done for the good work and demonstration of CORE values day in day out at school. As parents will know, student achievements points are awarded on Arbor and are visible to parents/carers with the app. To date, 12,362 achievement points have been awarded to students just this term. This is a credit to all those who work hard and show regard. We are very proud of you all. Keep up the good work in 2022!

We would like to wish all families a peaceful break with love and a chance for some rest.



Roman Soldiers Seen Training At Allestree Woodlands School!



As part of our Year 7 history study in to the legacy of the Romans, Allestree Woodlands students tested their skills out as Roman soldiers. As centurions they worked in small cohorts showing how well they knew techniques like the wedge, the orb, the repel-cavalry and the tortoise. Students demonstrated their skills in varying weather conditions, but they didn't complain unlike the Romans!

This experience builds on historical themes our pupils have explored this year such as the concept of empire, the importance of trade, the role of conflict and how civilised the Romans were. Students will revisit some of these themes this year and next.

Comments from the students were:

'We're ready for battle'

'I think we could take the Romans on!'

'This is real history'

'It was amazing!'

'I don't think we'd beat the real Romans'

A big 'thank you' to all those students across the year group (and their parents and carers) for their great efforts. It has been another fine year for pupils to show their knowledge of the Romans and their craft skills.

Best wishes,
The History Team.

MFL Christmas Carol Competition



The year 7 House competition was run by the MFL department this half term. All students in year 7 have been learning a Christmas song in German or Spanish as part of their language lessons. The sessions were delivered by our Language Leaders, a group of year 9 students who are completing an Leadership award in Languages.

The competition was fierce, the singing was sensational and there was amazing choreography and festive attire. All of our year 7 forms should be really proud of their achievements. The results will be announced in the year 7 celebration at the end of term. Well done to all the Language Leaders and all the students who took part.

MFL Christmas Jumper Design Competition



As part of our learning about other cultures and their traditions the languages department launched a Christmas jumper design competition. Students were asked to research traditions across the world at Christmas time. There were entries covering many areas of the world including Poland, Ireland, Japan and Lithuania.

The winning entry looked at the tradition of serving 12 different dishes and then adding a thirteenth, empty plate to the table in memory of absent loved ones. Our winning entrant will receive their own design made into their very own Christmas jumper!

Pupil's Choice Programme

Congratulations to Braedon Arthur Isaacs, and Sungani Ngondo for being chosen to join a Theatre Group at Derby Playhouse, after taking part in a Pupils Choice Intervention programme.

The idea of the programme was to allow students to openly express their views, and talk about "BEHAVIOU — is there another way"?

The result of this programme will be shown to teachers across Derbyshire to broaden their experiences and allows them to re-think of educational behaviour in a different way.

Certification was given to each student and a £10 voucher to spend in over twenty different shops.

Braeden and Sungani were asked to join the Theatre Group to further develop their talents.

Well done, boys!

Poppy Tydeman 10M2

Congratulations to Poppy Tydeman 10M2 who has been awarded 'District St John Ambulance Cadet of the Year 2023'.

Poppy applied to be considered for the opportunity by completing a full CV and application. Her parents took her to Lincoln so she could take part in the competition: She endured a gruelling full day of tests, interviews, presentation and of course first activity, group tasks and discussions.



This now means Poppy will be representing SJA for formal events across the country and be put forward for the National Cadet of the Year which will take place in February. She will have a great deal of responsibility coming her way.

Poppy prepared for the presentation in details and spent time to deliver her work to the panel of judges. This was no mean feat for Poppy. However, she really put all her effort in and it's paid dividends.

Well done Poppy this an amazing achievement!

Allestree Woodlands Year 7 and Year 8 Careers

AWS Careers has had a flying start this year with a number of events going on within school.

Year 7 have had a visit from Sergeant Steve Moore who is part of the Army outreach team. He spoke to them about his own career journey and career paths in the forces. He also focused on transferable skills that the pupils develop whilst in school. After Christmas they will be using an online tool called Unifrog where they can search careers and courses based upon their personal qualities and interests. They will also be learning about the local labour market and doing some work on challenging career stereotypes.

Year 8 also had the Army talk with Steve Moore. Next term they will be taking part in a careers carousel where a number of different employers from a number of sectors will present to them about their careers journey and how their future options could link to certain careers. These sessions will be engaging and interactive and were a huge hit last year.

Year 9 Careers



Year 9 have been researching careers and looking at how different subjects link to certain career paths. They have been using Unifrog to look at careers and options and have had sessions with Mrs Weightman in the LRC, making use of the resources there. In November we had the Army outreach team in who did a number of activities with our year 9 students to develop their team working and critical thinking skills. They did a number of interactive activities in groups and they all seemed to enjoy the day and get a lot out of it.

Year 10 and Year 11 CV Writing and Mock Interviews



Year 10 had a group of employers in to run workshops on how to write CVs. The employers came from many different sectors across the city and gave the students an invaluable insight into what employers expect from candidates. They talked about the dos and don'ts of CVs and interviews and gave them tips for making their CVs stand out. The students were given time to reflect upon any gaps they may have and to complete their CVs in preparation for Work Experience which will launch after Christmas.



Year 11 took part in mock interviews this week. We had 25 local employers come in who all work across the city and conduct interviews as part of their roles. The students were interviewed by an employer who then gave them verbal and written feedback that they can take with them for when they go on to their next steps. The students found the experience to be valuable and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. In the new year we will be providing them with further information about next steps. There are currently lots of opportunities in the city and students are encouraged to keep checking their Teams page for any up-to-date information.

Sixth Form Careers

In November we welcomed back three Allestree Woodlands Alumni from Rolls Royce Nuclear.

They presented an assembly to all the sixth form about Rolls Royce nuclear and answered three key questions:



What do you think we make at Rolls-Royce?

What do you think we make at Rolls-Royce Submarines?

What routes do you think are available to join Rolls-Royce?

The sixth form students commented that they found the presentation very beneficial and it was useful to hear from people who had made the choices they were now about to make for their own futures. They found it valuable to hear how exciting and inspiring apprenticeships could be.

Following on from this assembly, the three presenters held a seminar with apprenticeship focussed sixth formers. They talked in greater detail about the advantages of pursuing an apprenticeship with Rolls Royce and then finished the talk off with a detailed Q&A session.

This will be followed up with other opportunities to work with Rolls Royce nuclear later in the year.

From all the sixth form, we would like to say a big thank-you to the Alumni presenters Esther, James and Tom.

Year 12 Work experience Monday 22nd May – Friday 26th May.

All students in Year 12 are going to be on work experience from Monday 22nd May - Friday 26th May. In this period there will be no Year 12 classes – each day all students will be at the workplace of their host employer.

Work experience gives students the chance to learn about what type of job they might enjoy, and develop their CV. We know it can be one of the most transformational experiences young people have during their education.

Students (and their families) should source their own work experience placements. The careers guidance and sixth form team will do its best to find placements for any students who have been unable to find their own, but because we have limited resources, we expect to only be able to help a few students. N.B. Year 12 will be using some PSE lessons in January to support their work experience applications.

7 Top tips for students when applying for work experience via email /letter

1. Use a straight-to-the-point subject.
2. Use the employer’s name if you know it, or Sir/Madam if you do not.
3. **Paragraph 1:** Introduce yourself and the school you go to.
4. **Paragraph 2:** Say a little about why you are interested in the industry; a couple of sentences is enough. This shows that you have done research and have thought carefully about where you would like to do work experience.
5. **Paragraph 3:** Politely ask about work experience opportunities on dates you are able to attend. You can also ask for a meeting/phone call here too.
6. If you know the name of the employer, use ‘Yours sincerely’ and if not, use ‘Yours faithfully’.
7. Remember to proof red ☺ the email so there are not any mistakes

TASKS & DEADLINES	
TASK	DEADLINE
Work experience idea decided	Friday 13 th Jan
Identified companies / institutions & Made contact with chosen companies	Friday 27 th Jan
Had work experience confirmed & submitted WEX details via UNIFROG to Mrs Sellars	Friday 24 th March
WEX Monday 22 nd - Friday 26 th May	

We are using Unifrog (www.unifrog.org) to manage the administration of the work experience programme – for example collecting information from the employer about their Risk Assessment and Health & Safety policy, as well as getting agreement from yourselves for the placement to go ahead.

Some important logistics:

- Students need to agree the placement with the employer **first**, and then students will get the ball rolling by adding the placement to their Unifrog account (they will find the Placements tool on their Unifrog homepage).
- The Unifrog system will then email the employer, the parent / guardian, and the school, to collect the necessary information and permissions. For the process to work, **it is essential that students add the initial information about the placement accurately.**

We wish you the best of luck with supporting your child to find a placement. Please do make use of Unifrog’s guides help you.

Goalball



Clara Lane, 15, sampled goalball during an October half term holiday camp in Hereford run by national charity [VICTA](#), which provides support to children and young adults who are blind or partially sighted.

“There were lots of different sports and goalball was one of the activities we did on one of the days and I really loved how anyone could get involved and it was really inclusive,” said Clara.

What makes goalball so inclusive is that fully sighted players can play alongside those who are visually impaired on a level playing field because everybody has to wear eye covers so that nobody can see. Players, therefore, have to rely entirely on their other senses. Played indoors, goalball is a three-a-side team sport, in which players from opposing teams try to score a goal by ‘bowling’ the ball towards the other team who have to defend the ball from hitting their goal. The ball has bells inside so players can track its movement by its sound, whilst the court in professional games is marked out with tactile lines so players can feel where they are. When Clara came back to Derby from the holiday camp, she wanted to carry on playing the sport, but could not find anywhere locally which ran sessions.

“I decided to tell school about it and they managed to get Goalball UK in to do a taster session,” said Clara.

Students with and without visual impairments joined in the session and it proved so popular several students wanted to do it again. Goalball UK agreed to run a [Goalball School Leaders Course](#) at the school so that staff and Clara could learn how to coach and run sessions themselves. With her coaching complete, Clara is now leading sessions at the school with the help of teaching assistant Kate Goldberg who also completed the Goalball training sessions.

“We are so proud of Clara. She has demonstrated our school’s values of courage, optimism, regard and endeavour. When she realised that there were no Goalball opportunities in the city, she has been instrumental in establishing awareness and knowledge within Derby.”

See Me! Project



As part of the See Me! Project a group of students from year 8 and 9 went on a back-stage tour at Derby Theatre prior to watching the production of Jekyll and Hyde. During the backstage tour the students got to meet various staff to learn about different job roles within the theatre and to see how the different aspects of a theatrical production work together to create a performance. Students from Woodlands also got to meet students from Long Eaton school who had also been taking part in the project and got to see the rap they had created being showcased on the screens at the theatre.

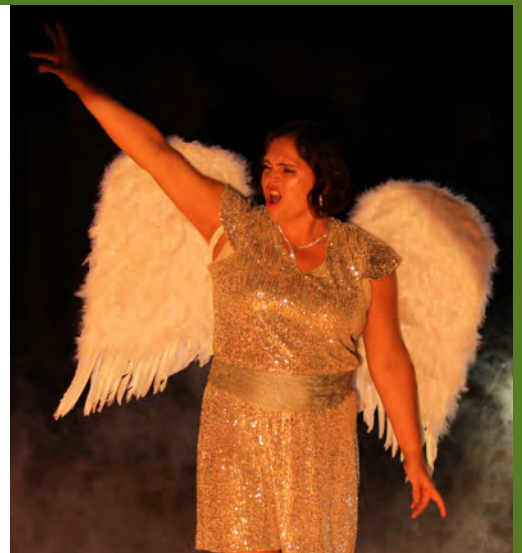
Lydia Martin –Ex Woodlands Student

We had the pleasure of welcoming an ex-Student Lydia Martin via Teams to talk to our year 9 students live from Germany.

Lydia has had a varied and interesting career since leaving Woodlands. She has lived and worked all over Europe, including as the Derby Envoy in Osnabrück. Lydia studied and worked with French and German and was able to explain how the skills she developed through language learning are transferable to other workplaces.

The students were able to ask and answer questions about her work abroad and career in languages. It was great to see one of our MFL alumni doing so well and she has certainly inspired our year 9 students to take GCSE languages.

Grease Performance



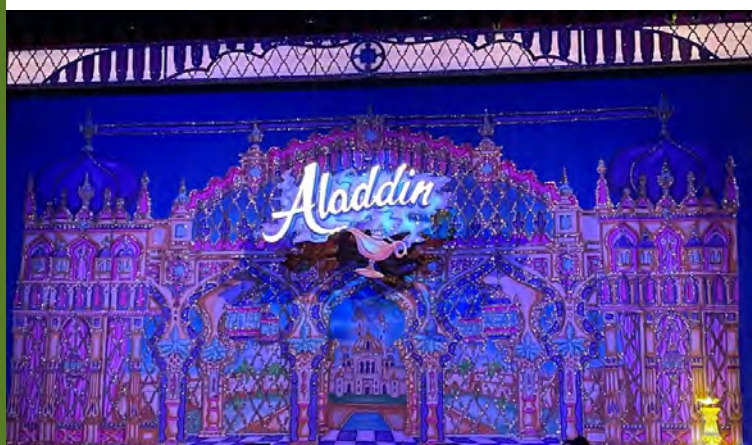
Grease Performance



Grease Performance



Aladdin Pantomime



On Friday 9th December, Miss Heron, Mrs Shokar and 14 students went to watch the first performance of this year's pantomime at Derby Arena called Aladdin.

The show was amazing with great songs and dancing. It was very funny and made us all laugh.

Comments from the students

"it was really entertaining"

" it was amazing!"

"it was good"

"can't wait to see another one next year"

"favourite part was when Aladdin was on the flying carpet"

Wind In The Willows



Our deaf students visited Derby Theatre to watch a signed performance of Wind in the Willows.

The theatre was great, but according to some, lunch at McDonalds afterwards was even better!

Chess Tournament Autumn 2022

The Autumn 2022 Chess Tournament has been in full swing since early November with some 54 students from across all year groups playing competitively. Around 400 match games took place, plus many more, 'just for fun.' The tournament opened with a round robin fortnight, so all those involved were able to take part in as many games as



they wished and earn points for a place in the exciting elimination round, where the Chess Champion and Key Stage winners were decided. All those who took part in the Tournament will receive a Certificate of Achievement when we return in January but, we are so happy to be able to announce our Autumn 2022 winners!

Congratulations to Theo Smith (YR 11) who is our Autumn 2022 Chess Champion. A fantastic achievement for Theo who will have his name engraved on our Perpetual Chess Tournament Trophy and will take home a replica version to keep. Our Key Stage Winners will be decided during the first week back after Christmas with their final elimination game. Each Key Stage winner receives a small trophy to mark their fantastic achievement.

We are extremely proud of our entire chess community. Those involved continue to demonstrate the core values of our school, whether taking part in our highly competitive Chess Tournament or simply playing for fun.

WINTER THEATRE REVIEW COMPETITION

- The Drama Department are launching a competition to create a Live Theatre Review. To complete this you will need to watch a play and share your opinions of the production.
- You could review Grease, a pantomime, musical or play of your choice.
- The production can be a live production or a streamed production. You can access many productions through Digital Theatre + <https://auth.digitaltheatreplus.com>



Prizes and certificates

All entries will receive achievement point and a certificate.

Top prize for the best review in each key stage will include National Theatre Tokens to help pay for tickets to attend a live theatre production in the future. If you have any questions, please speak to your Drama Teacher or send a teams message/email to Mrs Oldham.
h.oldham@woodlands.derby.sch.uk





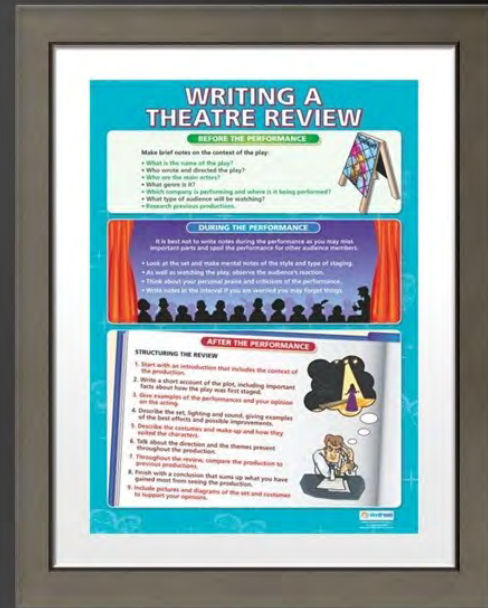
The competition will be open to **all** students, in **all** years, and will close on Friday 17th February



The review can be presented in any form (magazine article, PowerPoint, Vlog) so please be creative and have fun



The department will be judging the reviews on the following points:
 - Clear information -
 - Justified opinions
 - Imaginative presentation



You can now access a wide range of theatre productions as well as documentaries about theatre practitioners and behind the scenes videos from home.

After a time when theatres and arts venues have been closed you now have the opportunity to watch many exciting plays.

The link for Digital Theatre + is on this powerpoint and will also be sent out via satchel and 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).



Congratulations to Macie White of Year 10 who was part of the England Women Deaf Futsal squad who won the European Championships in Italy in October. Macie and some friends were invited to Pride Park to celebrate.

We are really proud of Macie for her commitment and achievement.



The Derby city table tennis tournament was held at Allestree Woodlands School on Tuesday 1st November. The results were:

U13s Mixed Competition

- 1st Oliver Deeney
- 2nd Ethan Wei
- 3rd Jun Kai Yan
- 4th Jamie Beesley
- 5th Beth Stables

U16s Boys

- 1st Leon Algie
- 4th Theo Smith

Congratulations to Tobin Bailey-Hill and Kaiden Webb who have both gone through to the next round to train as part of the NLD squad for Leicester Tigers.

This is a great opportunity for Both boys and a fantastic achievement.

Well done boys!!

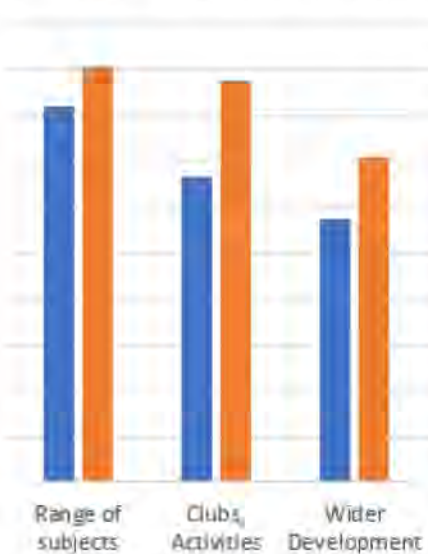


Parent / Carer feedback

Once again, this autumn we invited parents and carers to feedback to us on a number of areas of school life. The basis for the majority of questions is the Parent View survey which can be accessed by families throughout the year and is used by Ofsted to gather information about parental perspectives of how the school is doing.

We take the feedback from families very seriously and it was great to see that perceptions have improved in all categories this year compared to last. The percentage of parents / carers who say that they would recommend the school has risen from 82% to 87%; we want this to be all families and we do our best to respond to your concerns when things do not always run smoothly.

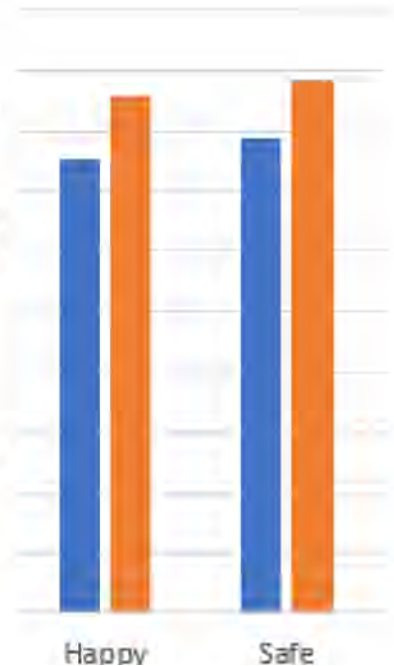
Curriculum and extra-curricular opportunities



Last year (blue column), families clearly felt there was room for further improvement with our offer of clubs and activities and in terms of our contribution to the wider development of our pupils such as through careers education and our PSHE programme as well as our development of courage, optimism, regard and endeavour. We have worked hard to offer and promote more enrichment opportunities such as sports, theatre visits, clubs, competitions and tournaments, the diversity and LGBTQ groups, instrumental lessons and performances, eco-committee and many more. This newsletter celebrates many of these and almost 90% of families report feeling very happy with this offer. Our wider offer has also been strengthened significantly as we appointed a lead for careers education and guidance and, again, evidence of the great work going on is evident here in the newsletter and an increase from 57% to 71% of families being happy with this part of school provision. We will continue to work hard on this and other elements of the wider development of our young people.

How the child feels at school

We want every young person who attends Woodlands to feel happy and safe at school. Our form tutors, heads of year and safeguarding team have all worked particularly hard on this area of school life to ensure that students know who they can turn to if they have a worry or concern. Ratings in this area have continued to improve as more parents and carers are confident that their child is happy with 86% of families saying this is the case now and 89% stating their child feels safe. We also undertake regular student surveys and meet with focus groups to understand the causes of any worries that pupils may have. Pupils have told us that they find the corridors busy and bustling and that this can be quite overwhelming for some. As a result, we have introduced new systems to make it easier for staff to keep these communal spaces orderly as well as recent assemblies, led by Mr Roe, to outline clear expectation of how we want students to conduct themselves when moving between lessons and at breaks. We have already noted a marked improvement and will continue to monitor as well as asking student for their views on how this is impacting their daily school lives.



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 9th January—Return to school for Spring 1 Half Term

Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th January—Year 12 Subject Evening (Cloud) 4:00-7:00pm

Friday 13th January—Sixth Form Application Deadline

Tuesday 17th January—Year 9 Options Showcase

Friday 27th January—Year 7 and 8 Report to Parents

Monday 30th and Tuesday 31st January—Year 9 Subject Evening (Cloud) 4:00pm-7:00pm

Friday 3rd February—Year 9 Options Submission Deadline

Monday 6th February—Friday 10th February—National Apprenticeship Week

Wednesday 8th February—Year 12 Derby University Apprenticeship Roadshow

Thursday 16th February—Break up for February Half Term

Friday 17th February—INSET DAY

Friday 17th February—Friday 24th February—Ski Trip