

# WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE: February 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

We are all looking forward to the start of Spring as we enter this half term. It has been a busy few weeks with mock examinations for years 11 and 13 who have responded superbly and conducted themselves wonderfully. It is no mean feat to juggle exams, deal with revision on top of the working day and manage emotions when entering exam rooms. I am really proud of how seriously students have taken this experience. However, I also want to remind all students and families that mock examinations are a practice run; the prime purpose is to learn about yourself and how you deal with the situation as well as clarifying what you need to understand better or ask for extra help with. Teachers will be planning lessons with mock results in mind when we return to ensure that gaps and misconceptions have been properly addressed.

For younger students, I am delighted to report that we have seen an impressive effort with learning in classrooms and positive behaviour around corridors following the launch of extra guidance in the new year. Our recent student voice survey tells us that students feel behaviour in the eating areas is good and that general behaviour has improved this year. We also see this. The perception of students is really important to us and we have more activities planned in the next half term to gather their views in addition to the opportunity to feedback directly to student leadership team.

Our peer mentoring programme is fully underway and it is a joy to see students meeting up on Tuesday mornings each week to get to know each other and provide support. This is an amazing contribution to school life and all of the mentors are doing something incredible. So many of our young people are making contributions to the school and wider community and I encourage you to share out of school achievements with tutors so that we can celebrate this.

SPRING  
*is coming*



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

## The BBC Visits Allestree Woodlands School



We were lucky to welcome the BBC in to school as part of their 'Share your Story' event. The event has run nationwide as part of the 100 years of the BBC celebration and saw 4 local employees come and talk about their careers in the arts.

They heard from people working in events, production, presenting and photography.

The pupils got to hear about their career pathways and journeys and were able to answer questions at the end. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and pupils were bursting with questions and left with a lot of ideas about potential careers in the arts.

## Year 12 Work Experience

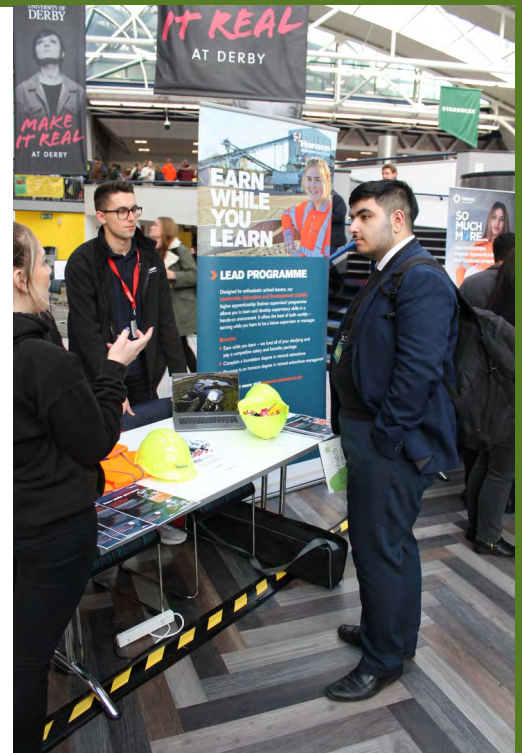
Year 12 Work Experience planning is well underway with several students having confirmed their placements and entered all the details onto Unifrog.

Please remind your son/daughter of the following deadline for them to enter their work experience placements onto Unifrog if they haven't already.

**Had work experience confirmed & submitted WEX details via UNIFROG to Mrs Sellars**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

**WEX Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May**



On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, 54 Year 12 and 13 students that are exploring routes into an apprenticeship, visited an apprenticeship careers fair at Derby University, Kedleston road campus.

Where they were able to find out how they could speak to employers first hand and discuss what skills they look for when they were recruiting.

Some of the organisations that attended were.

- Alstom
- Derby City Council
- Derbyshire Constabulary
- Rolls Royce
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust

The morning was informative and inspiring for the students and has led to a growing number of sixth form students looking to pursue the apprenticeship route.

## CERN Trip



It was 4.45am, on a cold, misty Thursday morning in February.

After a break of 4 years due to Covid restrictions, the Physics department were almost awake and standing in the bus bay outside school, delighted to embark on a journey, taking 26 Year 12 and 13 Physics A-level students to CERN in Geneva.

The main aim of the trip was to allow our students to visit the site of the world's biggest particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider, and see some of its facilities close up, as well as to listen to the latest details of experiments and theories from scientists who work at the site.

It was inspiring to see that what they have learnt at A-level is very much at the forefront of the latest research in Particle Physics into topics such as dark matter and energy. In addition, our students got to see Tim Berners-Lee's actual research proposal submitted in 1989 for a system to share digital information, which led to the creation of what is now known as the World Wide Web - an example of how the work at CERN has produced much wider benefits outside the world of Particle Physics. We also had time to visit the Verbois hydroelectric dam built during the Second World War, which is still operational and providing approximately 15% of the electricity for the Geneva region. Another highlight was visiting the United Nations, where we had a fascinating guided tour of the site and overview of the very important and varied work carried out by this global organisation.

On the final evening, we went for a delicious traditional Swiss meal, which included cheese fondue, and were treated to an impressive display of yodelling and other music by a Swiss one-man band!

Overall, it was a memorable trip, and all the students proved a huge credit to the school.

## CERN Trip Student Quotes

Some reflections from the students who attended the CERN trip:

I loved the whole experience from start to finish, felt safe and welcomed throughout, and had a fantastic time as well as a great learning experience. To be able to offer a look into the practical aspects of our work in physics is incredible as the resources in school can only show part of the picture, and by going to CERN, I felt like it joined up all our learning!  
All the staff were great and the food was delicious!

I found it fascinating to visit CERN and get to talk to the actual scientists that work there to understand more about the mind-blowing physics behind the particle accelerator. I found it particularly interesting to learn about what they are currently researching - colliding beams of lead nuclei to form the primordial state of matter from the early stages of the big bang (quark-gluon plasma) to better understand the origins of our universe.

The best part of going to CERN for me was being able to witness the frontiers of science and learning how it all works. I can't think of any improvements as I think it was run perfectly as a physics school trip.



Since September the Diversity Awareness team have been busy helping make sure our school is taking steps towards becoming an anti racist community.

This was kicked off with Wear Red Day which raised £749 for the charity Show Racism the Red Card and saw an impressive amount of students taking part by wearing red and donating to stand up against racism.

Next to mark black history month all members of our school were set the opportunity to take part in the Black History Month Knowledge Quest in which students had to find and read posters about key people in black history ( past and present) to answer challenging questions whilst learning about important black icons.



# Microaggressions

## What is a Microaggression?

Microaggressions are defined as the everyday, subtle, intentional (and often sometimes unintentional) interactions or behaviours that communicate some sort of bias towards historically marginalised groups

### Effects of Microaggressions:

- Loss of self esteem
- Damage to the ability to thrive in an environment
- Decreases in participation
- Mistrust of peers, staff and the institution

### How can **you** help to eliminate microaggressions?

- Further educate yourself on microaggressions
- Be considerate
- Be accountable for your actions
- Be willing to apologise
- Rethink harmful assumptions/stereotypes
- Be supportive by asking others how you can help



**KEY TERM:** Microaggression – if you don't know what they are look them up!

Meanwhile the team also put together an assembly to deliver to the school on racial equality. I am particularly proud of the topics covered in this assembly by the students which included the harmful use of micro aggressions and also outlining different forms of racism to open student's eyes to how racism can present itself.

Mrs Ainsworth

## Types of Racism to know about



### Personal Racism

Personal beliefs and attitudes towards other races affect the way you treat people of colour.

Ex. A person believing in white supremacy, telling or laughing at racist jokes.

### Interpersonal Racism

Treating others with discriminatory behaviour that ranges from microaggressions to physical violence.

Ex. A person using slurs or showing aggressions towards people of colour, mistreating others because of their skin colour.

### Systemic Racism

Perpetuated discrimination within a system that was founded on racist principals or practices.

Ex. A hiring manager disqualifies candidates based on their names, citing a 'cultural fit' that's actually discriminatory.

### Structural Racism

Cultural values in a society are so ingrained in daily life that they are seen as "the way things are".

Ex. A person of colour getting a longer sentence than a white person for the same crime.

**FIND OUT MORE BY RESEARCHING THESE KEY TERMS.**

**Can you think of your own examples of where you may have witnessed or experienced any of these in the news or media or in your day to day life?**

## Diversity Awareness Team



Upcoming events include the show racism the red card artwork and T-shirt design competition which will be launched for Year 9 shortly.

We are always pleased to have new members and voices join the team and hold meetings every Monday, week B, break 2 in room 2020. Please come along if you have any ideas you would like to share or would like to contribute to Woodlands anti racist journey.

Remember if you hear or experience racism you must report it as it is not acceptable.

Best wishes,  
The Diversity Awareness Team

## Autumn Chess Tournament Winners Update:

Last term we were delighted to announce that Theo Smith (YR11, KS4) was our Autumn 2022 Chess Champion.

A fantastic achievement for Theo who will have his name engraved on our Perpetual Chess Trophy and has taken home a replica version to keep.

Our Key Stage Winners have now also been decided:

**Congratulations to Oliver Souch (YR9, KS3) and Jacob Langford (YR13, KS5).** Oliver and Jacob have also been presented with a replica trophy to mark their fantastic achievement.

We are extremely proud of our entire chess community, and we look forward to welcoming all players to our Spring 2023 Tournament which opens Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. Students involved, are invited to play as many games as they like, with different players, to earn points and a place in the exciting elimination round. Match games will take place every day in the LRC until we have our Chess Champion and Key Stage winners!





# AWS Chess

# TOURNAMENT

Courage | Optimism | Regard | Endeavour

Spring 2023

**TOURNAMENT**  
will begin  
**27TH FEBRUARY**

**SIGN UP IN THE LRC**



Play as many games as you can to earn points  
and a place in the exciting elimination round!



## **Allestree Woodlands School student uses St John Ambulance Cadet of the Year title to support people with disabilities**

A student who has been named Cadet of the Year for Derbyshire St John Ambulance, is hoping to use her role to eradicate stereotypes of autism.

Poppy Tydeman, 14, had to undergo several assessments and make a presentation during the competition for the award, something she said she would have struggled to do several years ago.

Poppy was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome, a form of [Autism Spectrum Disorder](#), when she was 11 years old and said she struggled with confidence and sensory overload. She was teased at primary school because of the difficulties she had talking to people and making friends but when she joined Allestree Woodlands School in Year 7, her diagnosis, family and school support all combined to help her confidence grow.

"I've had a lot of help from my school and my family have always been there to push me and tell me 'You should do this'," said Poppy. "Even in the car on the way to the Cadet of the Year competition I told them 'I can't do this.' And they just said I didn't know if I could or not if I didn't try. I tried and I did it.

"My mum has always been there for me and I have struggled with sensory processing so when I used to go into the toilets at a petrol station or anywhere, she used to put her hands over my ears so I could dry my hands because I couldn't stand the sound of the hand dryers," said Poppy. "If things were ever noisy or became too much, she would put her hands over my ears. Now, I have ear plugs which I put in myself and they give the same kind of comfort."

Now, Poppy regularly attends large-scale, noisy events where she provides first aid support as a qualified corporal and first aider for St John Ambulance.

"Since being diagnosed I've almost used that to dispel stereotypes about what autism is," she said. "When I tell people I am on the spectrum, a lot of people are really surprised.

"I have worked hard to push myself and I want to show other people that they can do it. I'm really honest and, when I stand up in front of people, I tell them that I struggle with this.

"I also still suffer anxiety and sometimes find it hard to sleep. I had cognitive behavioural therapy when I was about 10 and that made the world of difference and really boosted my confidence. I tell people about my experiences because I want people to talk and get the support they deserve."

Poppy joined St Johns Ambulance two years ago and is now hoping to pursue a career in some form of medical field.

## Cadet Of The Year For Derbyshire St John Ambulance

"I come from a medical background," said Poppy. My dad used to work for the NHS and my mum still does so I was looking for something medical to do. From a young age I used to pretend to treat toys with old bandages so I think I always had an interest in it."

Since winning her award, Poppy has also learned that her grandmother was also in St John Ambulance.

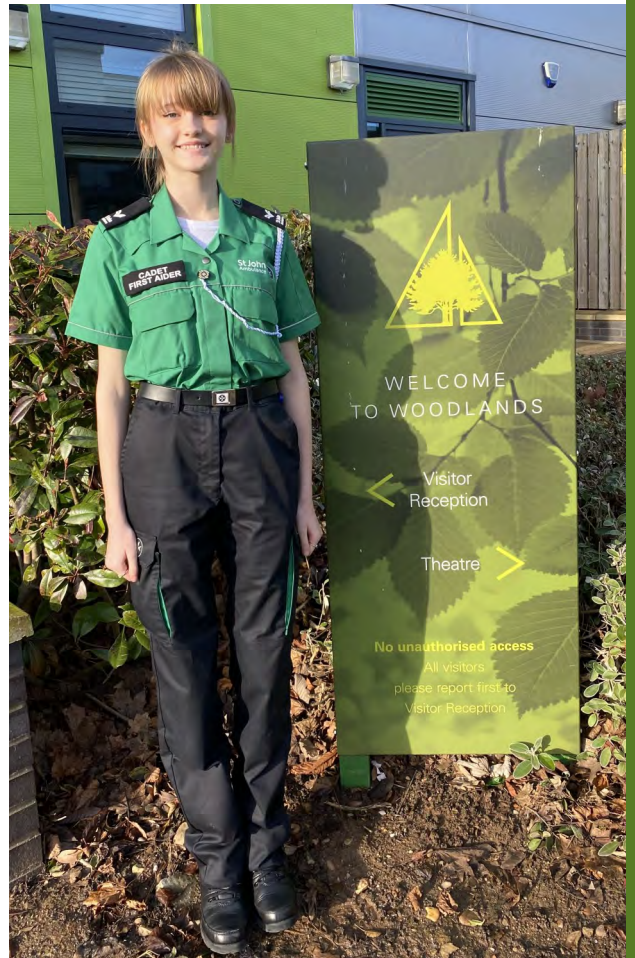
"I didn't know anything about it until I told her about my awards and first aid qualification and then she gave me her original St John Ambulance badges which was just so special."

Poppy wants to use the platform of being Cadet of the Year to support those with disabilities. She is also going forward for the Regional Cadet of the Year competition, which, if she wins, would lead on to a national competition.

"There's a lot of responsibility with cadet of the year but I have so many ideas of what I want to do to make a difference," she said. "One of my aims is to give more of a voice to the disabled community in St Johns' Ambulance. We are a very accepting and lovely community but there is always a need for a push and always room for change so I think if I start that, the next cadet can carry that on."

Tim Barker, assistant headteacher and special education at Allestree Woodlands School, said Poppy was a "phenomenal student".

"Poppy is a phenomenal student and I have been working with her closely ever since she came to the school. Her confidence has increased and she has been absolutely wonderful. She is a fantastic advocate for students with autism, particularly females. She is doing lots of wonderful things and is so independent and caring and it is lovely to see her show her leadership skills now."



## Cover Supervisor Interviews



Four of our students Kinga Zajac, Shulmigat Nadeem, Nadeem Mohammed and Jack Keane who sat on the recent student panel for the cover supervisor role were exceptional. They expressed a clear interest in the candidates and provided the formal interview panel with brilliant feedback to help them make their final appointments.

## Drama Beautiful Work



This term in Drama Year 8 have been working on a scripted piece. They have performed extracts from the Greek play Oedipus. To prepare for their performance they had to create a mask for their role. Some of these masks are below and showcase the artistic talent we have in the year group.

Students have gone above and beyond to make their masks, so well done!



The eco committee is focused on tackling environmental challenges within the school. This year we are focusing on improving the school's recycling system and increasing the biodiversity of the green spaces around the buildings.

Currently, the school is on a contract with a waste company that separates the waste into recyclable and non-recyclable. However, we believe that having paper/plastic bins will teach people how to recycle and pick up good habits for later in life. We are hoping to create a school garden in the spring/summer term to boost our biodiversity and encourage more time outdoors with nature.

In previous years we have planted trees in one of the back fields, held a second-hand Christmas jumper sale and created art out of plastic bottles representing the harm plastic has to marine life. Some of our future plans involve ensuring that the school's energy is renewable by adding solar panels, which is a long-term project. We also hope to work with the catering staff to add more vegetarian and vegan meals.

The Eco-schools programme is something that we are trying to achieve within the next few years. This challenge involves completing 7 steps to become an eco-school. By having a school eco committee we have already completed step 1. Last year we filled out a checklist of what we already have as a school to complete step 2. To complete step 3 we have to choose 3 topics to improve on within the school and set an action plan. We have picked to tackle waste and biodiversity this year as our first two topics. Step 4 is adding more environmental education into the curriculum which isn't something we are working on at the moment but will in the future. Step 5 is to inform the school of eco tips and the projects of the eco committee which we have done by having an eco-board in the Atrium, adding information slides onto the school TV screens, this article and we hope to do an assembly to the rest of the school later in the year. Steps 6 and 7 involve the evaluation of the project.

We meet every Monday on a week A at break 1 in room 2121 (Geography). Miss Bradshaw is the member of staff in charge and Martha Beaney is the Sixth Form Lead. We have many younger eco-warriors and we all work together to come up with new ideas and solutions to problems. We are a friendly group and would welcome anyone else who would like to come along.

## Derby Youth Major Elections



This half term, the student body have had the opportunity to vote for the next Youth Mayor of Derby. Having watched the video submissions of the candidates from across the Derby Schools, students completed their ballot papers to take part in the democratic process. This year we set up a polling station in the LRC offering students the opportunity to experience what voting will be like for them once they are old enough! It was fantastic to see students queuing for the voting booth and dropping their votes into the official ballot box and to have the opportunity to reinforce the importance of exercising your right to vote. We are now eagerly awaiting the results!

Mrs Walker

Lead for Enrichment, Cultural Capital and Opportunity

## Drama

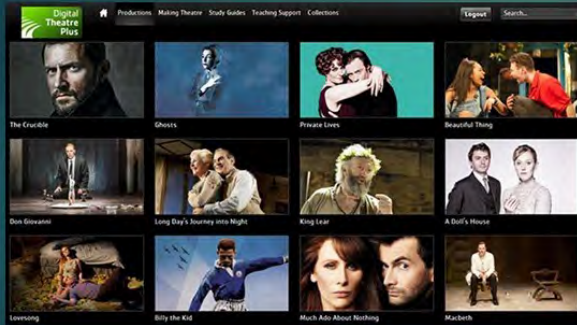


On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January, the Year 10 BTEC group went to see the fantastic touring production of Blood Brothers by Willy Russell. The amazing production was performed at the Winding Wheel Theatre, in Chesterfield. The students who took part in the trip were excellent ambassadors for the school both on the train and in theatre and the staff have enjoyed discussing and analysing the play with the students who took part.

Do you fancy an evening watching fantastic theatre?



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



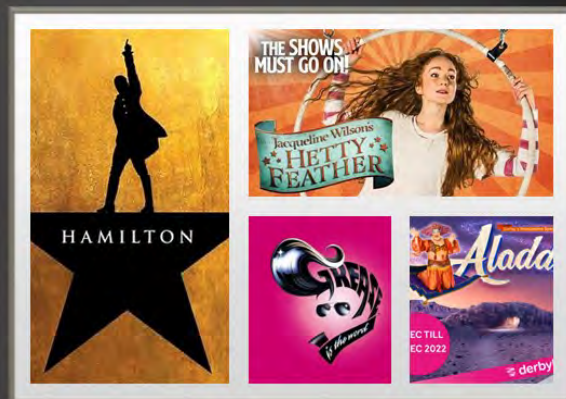
We are delighted to let you know we have extended out subscription to Digital Theatre Plus and view a wide range of theatre productions as well as documentaries about theatre practitioners and behind the scenes videos from home



The link for Digital Theatre + has been shared with students 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).

## WINTER THEATRE REVIEW COMPETITION

- Well done to all students who entered the Theatre Review competition, it has been great to read about the productions you have been watching. Thank you for sending us your reviews.
- The Drama Department will be announcing the winner after half term.



## The LGBTQ + Group



To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, the LGBTQ+ group have led assemblies for every year group this half term, to educate and inform students about LGBTQ+ history. The assemblies were very informative and challenged students in particular to think about the language they use everyday and the power that words can have to shape the way people think about themselves. The assemblies were led primarily by students from Years 7 and 9 who showed a tremendous amount of courage to stand up in front of every year group to talk about something which is important to them.

The group meets every Friday at Break 1 in room 1022 and we finished off the half term with a celebratory party to recognise the importance of being able to deliver assemblies like this. We are excited to think ahead now to Pride celebrations in June and how we can continue to educate and inform the student body about the LGBTQ+ community.

Mrs Walker

*Lead for Enrichment, Cultural Capital and Opportunity*



## Craft Club



Craft Club is held in room 2229 each Thursday from 3:15-4:15 to all year groups. Students are able to learn new skills which include crocheting, knitting and sewing. Students have asked if Craft Club could also be held on an additional day because of how much they enjoy it.

## Derbyshire School Cross Country Championships



Allestree Woodlands students represented Derby City at the Derbyshire Schools Cross Country Championships on Saturday 21st January. The event was held at Tupton Hall School in Chesterfield on a very chilly day. The course was a 'good cross-country course' with lots of hills and varied terrain. I am super proud of them all for their effort, attitude, and performance on the day. The results are as follows;

Y7 Boys – Thomas Curren 12<sup>th</sup>

Y8/9 girls -Esmee Downes 33<sup>rd</sup>, Holly Barrows 68<sup>th</sup>

Y8/9 boys – George Dickens 29<sup>th</sup>

Y10/11 girls – Iris Clarke 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lena Clark 22<sup>nd</sup>

Y10/11 boys Daniel Cope 6<sup>th</sup>, George Patterson 15<sup>th</sup>

Y12/13 girls – Poppy Mead 5<sup>th</sup>, Imogen Morland 8<sup>th</sup>

Y12/13 boys – Sam Sawcz-Wood 6<sup>th</sup>

The level of competition was outstanding. Putting this into perspective, Iris Clarke was second behind last years national cross-country champion!

Derby City won 5 out of 6 team competitions (2<sup>nd</sup> in the Y8/8 boys)

Lisa Palmer-Blount

Physical Education Teacher

### YEAR 7 INTERHOUSE RESULTS

FOOTBALL – WINNERS-(WODL) CEDAR(LANS) MAPLE

NETBALL – WINNERS-(WODS) OAK(LANS)ROWAN

DANCE - WINNERS-(WODL) ROWAN (LANS) ROWAN

BASKETBALL— WINNERS-(WODL)ROWAN(LANS) CEDAR

### YEAR 8 INTERHOUSE RESULTS

NETBALL - WINNERS-(WODL) ROWAN(LANS)ROWAN

FOOTBALL – WINNER- (WODL) CEDAR(LANS) CEDAR

BASKETBALL – WINNER- (WODL) MAPLE(LANS) ROWAN

DANCE- WINNER - (WODL) MAPLE (LANS) MAPLE

### YEAR 9 INTERHOUSE RESULTS

FOOTBALL – WINNERS- (WODL) MAPLE (LANS) OAK

NETBALL – WINNERS- (WODL) MAPLE (LANS) OAK

BASKETBALL (BOYS) - WINNERS-(WODL) OAK (LANS) MAPLE

BASKETBALL (GIRLS) - WINNERS-(WODL) MAPLE (LANS) OAK

## 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](mailto:safeguarding@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)



ALLESTREE  
WOODLANDS  
SCHOOL

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](mailto:h.smith@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

### Head of Year 8

Helen Curr

[h.curr@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:h.curr@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

### Head of Year 9

Emily Pitter

[e.pitter@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:e.pitter@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

### Head of Year 10

Lucy Colley

[l.colley@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:l.colley@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

### Head of Year 11

Damon Hammond

[d.hammond@woodlands.derby.sch.uk](mailto:d.hammond@woodlands.derby.sch.uk)

## KEY DATES

Monday 27th February—Return to school for second half term

Tuesday 7th March—Year 8 Career's Carousel

Tuesday 14th & Wednesday 15th March—Year 13 Subject Evening 4:00-pm7:00pm

Friday 17th March—Year 9 Reports To Parents

Friday 31st March—Year 10 & Year 12 Reports To Parents

Friday 31st March-3rd April—Berlin Trip

Thursday 30th March—Last Day Of Term

**Friday 31st March—INSET DAY**

Monday 17th April—Return for Summer Term

Please note that the following dates are currently proposed dates for strike action which will impact on provision:

1st March

15th and 16th March