

# WOODLANDS NEWSLETTER



ISSUE: October 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

We have had an excellent start to the new academic year with good attendance and great attitudes to learning displayed by the vast majority of students who are ready to learn and focused on their lessons. Home learning completion is the best it has been in the past three years. An average of 1000 achievement points have been awarded every week this half term for demonstrating the CORE values. This is fabulous and we are really proud of how much effort pupils are putting into their studies and life at school. We are working with students next half term to find the best way to ensure they know how well their teachers think they are doing and how many points they have been awarded.

This academic year has also seen the launch of our Fundamental Five to set expectations for lessons and aid the establishment of consistent routines for students across all years and subjects. Students have been arriving to lessons and settling quickly to the 'Do Now' tasks and have taken these opportunities to recap previous learning and stretch their thinking further.

Alongside this, we have now filled all posts in our Student Leadership Team; next half term, all year groups will be involved in appointing representatives to form a wider school council to ensure that student views are heard. Last year's student leaders were influential in the decision to buy picnic benches for the quad area and in the installation of water dispensers around school so that bottles can be refilled.



Today sees our second Wear Red Day at Allestree Woodlands. Last year, we had an amazing show of support for taking a stand against racism and our students were honoured at a presentation at the Emirates Arsenal FC Stadium following winning entries in the national competition. Below is the winning entry from Kiera Meffen in Y10 which is currently our website logo to celebrate Black History Month.



We look forward to meeting as many families as possible after the half term break for our first tutor review events which have proved extraordinarily popular; we are aware that Thursday evening appointments have been snapped up and are working on how best to ensure we are in communication with those of you that will struggle to get in on the Friday.

Have a lovely half term break.

Gemma Penny



I am pleased to announce that following a rigorous application process, 39 students in Year 9 and Year 10 have been selected to be Peer Mentors. This is a really important role in an exciting new venture at Allestree Woodlands. Our Peer Mentoring programme will be based on young people supporting one another. Following extensive training, staff will match mentors with mentees in one-on-one friendships so that they can provide guidance and support, serving as positive role models. Our programme will enable Peer Mentors to listen and support fellow pupils (mentees), helping them deal with the current challenges they may be facing and making positive decisions in school.

The training which will happen early next term is facilitated by Kidscape and will enable the mentors to:

- Recognise the benefits of a Peer Mentoring programme
- Understand what is involved in the Peer Mentoring process
- Share the key responsibilities of a Peer Mentor
- Recognise personal qualities and skills
- Have a greater awareness of safeguarding procedures
- Increased confidence to communicate and listen effectively
- Promote wellbeing and positive mental health

Signpost to further help and support

Following the training, the programme will run during registration twice a week once mentors and mentees have been paired. I am really excited about the programme and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the Mentors on their successful applications.

Mr Roe

Deputy Headteacher

## Kobe: Allestree Woodlands Wellbeing Dog Headlines Derby Telegraph

A seven-month-old cockapoo called Kobe will be joining the teaching staff at a Derby school after graduating dog academy.

Kobe has just completed his Dog Mentor training, meaning he can support staff and pupils at Allestree Woodlands School in classrooms, either with mental wellbeing or with elements of the curriculum, such as improving communication skills. Kobe graduated training in time to be introduced to the school community on World Mental Health Day (Monday, October 10).

Owner and handler, Assistant Headteacher Rachel Brailsford, bought Kobe and trained him with the purpose of him becoming a dog mentor, supporting students with their wellbeing.

"As a school we wanted to support more pupils with mental health and so we researched what was being done with dogs in schools," she said. "Initially we thought of Kobe as a therapy dog, but actually when we found Jenny from The Dog Mentor, we realised he could support in so many other ways in classrooms as well."

Jenny Duckworth spent a day at the school training Kobe and working with staff and pupils. Following his training as a dog mentor, Kobe can now go into classrooms to help teach pupils how to behave around animals, how to manage their emotions, improve their communication skills and enhance their confidence through performing actions on command.

Jenny said she had seen more need for dog mentors in schools since Covid.

"There is a great need for additional support since Covid to help build well-being because some children have struggled since having to come back into the classroom," said Jenny. "My role is to help protect Kobe's personality and help teach not just him, but everybody working with him, how to get the best out of him."

Kobe, along with teachers and staff, received training from Jenny within the school to ensure they could safely work together for the benefit of pupils. They will also receive ongoing information and support to help with Kobe's work at Allestree Woodlands School.

He will now visit the school each Thursday and Friday to support pupils, as well as coming in on other specific occasions, such as Children's Mental Health Week in February next year.





It has been fantastic to welcome back the team from NCS (National Citizen Service) to work with Year 11 this half term. Across a series of sessions, the team are working with Year 11 on a Volunteering and Social Action project as well as sessions on Employability, Health and Wellbeing and Skills for Independent Living. These sessions will continue during PSHE sessions after half term and until Christmas. Feedback from staff, students and the NCS team have been great, with students demonstrating our CORE values and getting the most out of sessions. We hope to welcome NCS back again in the New Year, to talk to Year 11 about the exciting opportunities they offer during the post-exam summer break.

Mrs Walker

Lead for Enrichment, Cultural Capital and Opportunity

# Daisy inspires her old school by rocketing into exciting career in space engineering



Space was brought a little closer to earth for students at one Derby school as they welcomed back a former pupil now working in the space industry. To mark World Space Week 2022 Allestree Woodlands School hosted a range of events, including an assembly with former pupil Daisy Richardson. Daisy took part in CanSat, an engineering space competition, while she was studying at the school. It catapulted her career, leading to her job as a Junior Aerospace Engineer for UK based space company B2Space Greg Duffy, Assistant Headteacher at Allestree Woodlands School, has entered the school into the CanSat competition nine times. The national competition tasks pupils to design and build their own simulation of a real satellite, integrated within the volume and shape of a soft drink can.

The challenge for students is to fit all the major subsystems found in a satellite, such as power, sensors and a communication system, into this minimal volume. After building their "CanSat", teams are invited to launch events across the UK to launch them on small rockets, with their CanSats returning to Earth using a parachute designed by the students.

In 2018 and 2019, the school's team won the UK competition and went on to the European final. Daisy Richardson was a member of the 2018 winning team.

She said: "The school has helped me massively. I came to Allestree Woodlands in sixth form so I didn't know anyone and I saw one day that there was a CanSat meeting so I went along and kind of fell in to it." The team went on to win the UK competition, going on to the European finals in the Azores. "Basically, after that, opportunities flew in," said Daisy, 22. Inspired by the competition, she went on to do a degree in Physics with Astrophysics at the University of Leeds and had intended to stay on to study a masters.

However, it was her former school that continued to open doors for her.

## Daisy Richardson and Space Week

“Mr Duffy invited me back to do lots of different things at the school, like presentations and talks about CanSat,” said Daisy. “Then in 2019 I got invited to a space conference in Wales. NASA was there and I got to meet Tim Peake. I was there as part of CanSat to talk to companies about how they could support the competition. When I went back to university, I did start thinking more about space research and then I got a call from an internship programme run by the UK Space Agency so I applied and I put my CanSat competition all over my applications. That’s how I got an internship with B2Space. Since the competition, Allestree Woodlands School has established a rocketry club and various special events to support STEM subjects. As part of celebrating Space Week, the school also enjoyed a virtual presentation from Matt Bothwell, an astronomer and space communicator based at the Institute of Astronomy and the Kavli Institute for Cosmology in Cambridge.

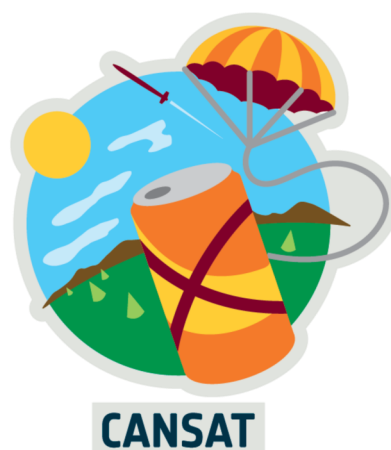
Daisy said she would encourage students to take part in all the opportunities available.

“I kept saying yes to things, and that’s what got me my job,” she said. “I accepted any opportunity that was open to me, to do talks, take part in competitions. Since winning CanSat there are even more of those opportunities available at Allestree Woodlands so I would encourage everyone to take those opportunities.”

Mr Duffy, who is already working with this year’s CanSat team at the school, said: “CanSat always makes our students stand out at interview. We’ve placed students with Rolls Royce for degree apprenticeships, into UK space industry internships and also into university pathways. All have talked about CanSat in their applications. CanSat has sparked conversations, opened doors for students and schools, and provided opportunities to engage students who may never have seen themselves as being able to achieve in this way without the challenge.”

Mr Duffy said it was fantastic to welcome back Daisy and see more pupils inspired.

“Tapping into pupils’ fascination with space can be an excellent way to introduce scientific principles and inspire a love of science and it’s why we celebrated World Space Week at Allestree Woodlands School,” he said.





## CanSat case study: Daisy Richardson

### FROM SCHOOL PROJECT TO SPACE INDUSTRY CAREER: CANSAT PROPELS DAISY FORWARD



#### It all began with CanSat

Daisy was at sixth form at Allestree Woodlands School in Derby when she first heard about the CanSat competition.

"CanSat took about a year in total. There were six of us in a team supported by a teacher. We met at lunchtime and after school. The UK competition was in York and I think it was three days. It felt non-stop but it was really fun. We then won that UK stage and went on to the European final in the Azores."

"I did the parachute design. I made and designed the parachute for the can. There was a main parachute and we had a drone one, which was much smaller. Constructing a normal sized parachute would probably be quite difficult in itself. Constructing a parachute that's got to fit into a tin can is very difficult, because it's a tenth of the size. But we did it!"

"When I was taking part in CanSat it definitely helped my motivation in lessons at school. It gave me a why to what I was learning, as some of it I needed to be able to use immediately for CanSat. I could see how the information was going to be applied to real life."

Daisy recognises the impact that taking part in CanSat had on her university and career choice.

"The best thing to come out of it is definitely my job. My career prospects changed completely. I'm so glad they did, because I actually don't think I would have liked the super academic environment that I was looking at going into. I also think one of the good things is the skills that came out of CanSat and the knowledge of what a mission is actually like; I don't think you really get that in any other work experience. When you're working in the space industry, and you don't have any engineering experience, I think having that mission and planning experience is really useful."

#### Increased confidence

"The confidence it gave me was massive. I remember not knowing how I could contribute and then I ended up being the sole person working on the parachute. It makes you realise you CAN do it!"

"It's made me more confident in saying yes to opportunities. Now I say yes to things that I wouldn't have done before and it has opened doors for me."



For more information on the CanSat competition, please visit: [www.stem.org.uk/esero/cansat](http://www.stem.org.uk/esero/cansat)





### A career in the space industry

Since competing in the CanSat competition, Daisy has completed a degree in physics and joined B2Space through their internship programme.

"Now I work for B2Space. Our mission is to send high altitude balloons to allow us to launch rockets from a high altitude. It reduces the cost of small companies and businesses launching payloads to space as it's much cheaper. Universities use it for research too. I did an internship with them and ended up loving it so much that I stayed!"

For Daisy, CanSat hasn't just given her the motivation to find a job in the UK space industry: it also increased her knowledge and gave her a network of contacts to encourage her in her career.

"CanSat just made me want to do it even more. I became so focused on getting a job in the space industry. I use the skills learned during the project every day, even some of the knowledge! My career prospects changed completely from taking part. I gained real connections within the UK Space Agency which really helped when it came to applying to university and getting a job afterwards."

### Encouraging girls in STEM

Daisy has fond memories of the CanSat experience and continues to advocate for more girls to take part in teams across the UK, as well as encouraging girls to consider a STEM and space career.

"I go back into schools to encourage younger girls to consider this career too. I'm not a very stereotypical person who might do a physics degree and work as a rocket scientist. But I'm really passionate and dedicated to my chosen career. I want more girls to know they can do it too and see that this is what a girl in STEM looks like! CanSat was part of that journey for me and I'm so glad school were taking part."

"It is a great feeling knowing that I'm actually encouraging other girls into it now and breaking the stereotype."



### Widening participation

Daisy also recognises the benefits to her school:

"It has been really good for my school too. Now they have a rocketry club and they do a summer school for new year sevens which includes mini space projects.

They have made incredible connections with Rolls Royce as well, who are based just down the road. That has been great for supporting students with work experience."



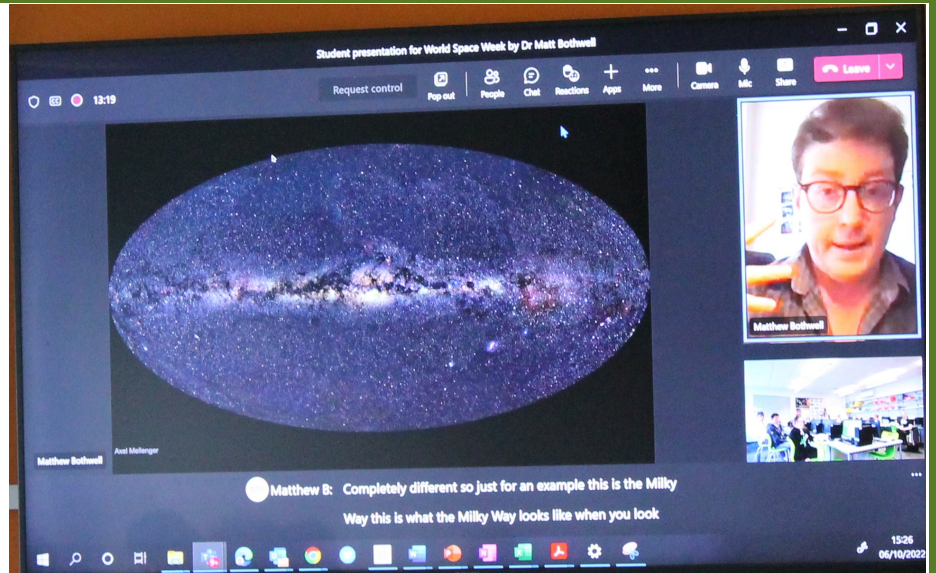
For more information on the CanSat competition, please visit: [www.stem.org.uk/esero/cansat](http://www.stem.org.uk/esero/cansat)





## Dr Matt Rothwell, Research Astronomer

We were delighted to welcome Dr Matt Bothwell, Research Astronomer and Science Communicator at the Institute of Astronomy at the University of Cambridge, who gave a presentation (over Teams) to students from various year groups during World Space Week in early October. Dr Bothwell outlined how we can only



see 1 % of the universe with the naked eye, and how our ability to record the other 99 % with modern telescope technology allows us to deepen our understanding of it in very exciting ways. In particular, he mentioned the potential discoveries that the recently launched James Webb telescope could make from imaging deeper space with infrared radiation, the same radiation used in our toasters to make our morning breakfast! Dr Bothwell also gave a brief overview of his own area of research into very young (baby!) galaxies. It was a fascinating talk and sparked a wide range of questions from the audience afterwards. The school would like to thank Dr Bothwell for taking time to talk to our students.

## Miss Elson's Cooks Class



Fourteen Year 7 & Year 8 students have been enjoying an after school activity in Miss Elson's Cook Class, learning how to make home made pasta.

## Local MP Pauline Latham Visit

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Pauline Latham, the local MP for Mid Derbyshire, visited the school to meet some of the students involved in Politics lessons and the Debate Society. Mrs Latham was in the school for around 3 hours and in this time she met with Year 12 and 13 Politics students, as well as the current Derby City Debate champions from Year 11. She also attended a quick question and answer session with the rest of the Debate Society during break time.

While she was here, Mrs Latham spoke about her job as a local politician, her day-to-day life and some of the most meaningful things she had worked on in her time as a politician. She also explained her reasoning for going into politics and the process she had to go through to get to where she is.

The day was a fantastic opportunity for some of our budding politicians and public speakers to meet a working politician and get their questions across to her. I hope that everyone that was involved in the day enjoyed their time and managed to get something out of it.

Thank you to all involved.

## Lego Recycling Service



Dear Parents/Carers,

The SEND team is ever evolving in how we work with students, a number of staff have received training to facilitate Lego Therapy.

If you have any (ideally **complete**) lego sets that you have stored but no longer require we would be most grateful for your donations.

Small and simple sets like those above are ideal which students are able to complete within a relatively short timeframe, but any Lego is useful. This can be dropped into reception.

Thank you in advance for any donations, yours gratefully, The SEND Team.

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park



Year 10 and Year 11 Art GCSE students enjoyed an inspirational day at Yorkshire Sculpture Park on the 6th October.

# LAMDA



We are pleased to announce that all students who completed their LAMDA acting exams in the summer term achieved a Merit or a Distinction!

Well done to Emma Finnigan

Erin Jones , Jessica Winfield Denis Mirinova and Eve Lumley what a fantastic achievement!

## Derby Theatre Project

10 boys from across years 8 and 9 were invited to take part in the arts project 'See Me!' in partnership with Derby Theatre. The students involved worked alongside professional artists and were also given the opportunity to visit Derby Theatre to watch the production of Jekyll and Hyde. The students took part in four



workshops, which aimed to 'creatively explore ourselves' and give students the chance to express who they are. The students worked with Rukus, (a musician/rapper/music producer), Rory Aaron (a poet) and Ian Pringle (an applied theatre practitioner) to explore ideas and create work which can be showcased at Derby Theatre.

## Speech And Drama Lessons

Do you want the chance to develop your Speech and Drama skills?

Would you like the opportunity to work with a tutor on a 1 to 1 basis with a tutor every week?

Would you like the opportunity to be entered for Trinity Acting exam?



## Speech and Drama Lessons



**Speech and Drama lessons** are taught individually, offering pupils a focused environment to develop acting skills. Depending on age and experience pupils learn and perform through grades 1-8 encountering a broad range of literature along the way.

**TRINITY**  
COLLEGE LONDON

Trinity Acting Exams are nationally recognised exams in acting. UCAS points are awarded at grades 6-8.

If you are interested please ask your Drama teacher for a letter with more details.

## Pre-Loved Uniform Collection Scheme



We are pleased to announce that, in conjunction with Morley's School wear, we have implemented a pre-loved uniform collection scheme.

We have set up two boxes in school (one in main reception and one at student reception) to collect uniform that is no longer needed. This uniform will be collected by Morley's, on a regular basis, who will check its quality and then restock in their new pre-loved area of the store at a discounted price.

Any profits gained from the sale of pre-loved items will be donated to charity at the end of the year and we will inform you how much has been raised from this.

The stipulation for donating un-needed uniform is as follows:

- Must be **laundered**
- For blazers and PE tops to be sold they would need the school logo. However, items without the school logo would still be appreciated and can be used as spare clothing in school.

Must be in a **re-saleable** condition - ask yourself 'would you buy it for your child?' (minor damage can be repaired)

We very much look forward to working with our school community on this sustainability project along with helping to provide an alternative to full priced uniform for people wishing to purchase pre-loved.

## Your School Lottery

Thank you for your support of the new school lottery, we have now sold over 60 tickets which is a brilliant start and will go a long way towards helping the PFTA raise funds for our school and children. The first draw isn't until the 5<sup>th</sup> November and so if you haven't already signed up then there is still time using the link below! The new lottery is all completely online and it's very easy to join.

The new system offers:

- Entries from as little as £1 per week (minimum period 1 month)
- Sign up using direct debit or debit card
- Additional Jackpot Prize if all 6 numbers matched (up to £25,000 Prize)
- Winners notified via email and prizes paid directly into your account

The information on how to join is attached but can also be found at:

[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/allestree-woodlands-school](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/allestree-woodlands-school)



**SUPPORT OUR LOTTERY**

**It's A  
WIN-WIN  
Situation!**

**BOOST School Funds  
WIN up to £25,000**

**BUY TICKETS**

**TICKETS  
£1 EACH**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



**Think food  
Think support  
Think change**

The **Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance** supports people in Derby who are experiencing food poverty, through food provision, signposting, education and advice.



### **Need support?**

If you need assistance call **01332 346266** - we can provide you with a range of support including an emergency food package.

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### **Want to donate?**

We rely on donations of food and money from businesses and individuals. To donate email:

**df4ta@communityactionderby.org.uk**

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### **Interested in volunteering?**

We're always looking for volunteers to help with all kinds of tasks.

For more information email:

**df4ta@communityactionderby.org.uk**



The Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance is supported by Community Action Derby and proud to be part of The Derby Community Hub - a multi-sector partnership that includes Derby City Council. DF4TA is a registered charity (no. 1198665).



@DerbyFood4TA



@DF4TA



@DF4TA





## Alzheimer's Society Fund Raising



Dr Naughton ran the Yorkshire Marathon, raising funds for the Alzheimer's Society; tying in to the chosen Sixth Form charity for this academic year. He completed it in 3 hours and 58 minutes and hopes to do even better next year. So far £665 has been raised!

Thank you to everyone who made a generous donation.

## England Deaf Futsal Team



Congratulations to Macie White 10R1, for being part of the England Deaf Futsal Team who are currently competing at the Euros in Italy. They have worked through their group beating Italy and Germany and are through to the finals. An amazing achievement Macie. Well done!!



Well done to our Year 10 student Iris Clark for taking part in the London Mini Marathon on 1st October and achieving 4th position.

Iris also had the experience of being on TV and meeting the Men's Marathon World Record Holder Eliud Kipchoge.

Congratulations to Lucy Cunningham 8R1;  
She became the Derbyshire Overall  
Champion on 11th September at Amber  
Valley Gymnastics Club. Lucy achieved 3rd  
on vault & floor and 1st on beam.



## 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 | Regard | 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 31st October—Return to School for Autumn 2nd Half Term
- Thursday 3rd November –Tutor Evening 4:00-7:30
- Friday 4th November—Tutor Morning 8:30-12:00
- Monday 7th November—Inset Day—School Closed to Students
- Tuesday 15th November—Friday 18th November—6th Form Cumbria Trip
- Wednesday 30th November—Year 11 Exam Support Evening
- Friday 2nd December—Year 9 Reports to Parents
- Monday 5th December—Year 13 Estimated Grade to Parents
- Wed 7th Dec , Thurs 8th Dec & Fri 9th Dec—Grease Evening Performances
- Wednesday 14th December—Carol Service at St Nicholas Church 7:00
- Tuesday 20th December—Internal UCAS Deadline
- Wednesday 21st December—6th Form Charity Day
- Thursday 22nd December—End of Second Half Term—School To Close At 1:00