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Welcome to the eighth edition of the Woodlands Academy newsletter

February 2021

## STREET



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**Ofsted**  
Outstanding



## A message to you, from us!

A message from Mrs Eyre:

Welcome to the first edition of our newly designed newsletter!

In this edition we are focussing on sharing with you the activities pupils have been completing across the curriculum since the start of this academic year. We are also looking ahead, to what we have planned for when we pupils are able to return to school.

As we continue to find ourselves in very difficult circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the continuous hard work of the staff team; embracing the new challenges of online teaching via TEAMS, rethinking their lessons/curriculum for online or distanced learning and ensuring they continue to maintain contact with their keyworker children and parents/carers. Despite the challenges of these new ways of working and teaching, I am proud of the creativity and commitment staff have demonstrated.

Also, I would like to thank our parents/carers. I fully appreciate the difficulties and stresses online or distanced learning can bring. However, you have shown fantastic support to your child which has enabled them to complete and return work, or take part in TEAMS lessons – a way of learning that no other generation has had to do before. Your continued patience and perseverance while we have set up and refined these systems and processes, is also appreciated.

Lastly, I hope we can welcome all pupils back soon and return to a better form of normality. Until then, please do stay safe and if we can support in any way please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,  
Mrs A Eyre

A message from Mrs Powell:

These have been unprecedented times and on behalf of the LSB I would like to thank both staff and students for the way they have dealt with this difficult situation.

The staff, led by Mrs Eyre, have tried to ensure that the students in school and those at home have received the best care, attention, and education possible. It has involved a steep learning curve on all sides, but everyone seems to have adapted to this way of working for the time being. Thanks should also go to parents and carers who have been supportive of the school during this difficult time. We know it has not been easy for any of you.

Hopefully, things will soon begin to improve, and we will eventually return to normal. In the meantime, I trust you will all keep safe and well and I look forward to the day when I will be able to visit school and meet up with the staff and pupils once again.

Pam Powell  
Chair of the Local School Board



# The Grand Old Duke of Edinburgh

## What We have Been Up To:

On DofE, we have been volunteering at The New Life Centre, which is a Christian Youth Centre. The New Life Centre is an organisation that constantly helps the community with groups of all ages coming together to socialise and interact. We have been helping renovate the courtyard at The New Life Centre to provide them with a peaceful area for the locals and users of the centre to relax and appreciate.



As well as the Volunteering section, pupils must do a physical section. This can involve any sport or hobby, providing it has some aspect of physical challenge. In school, for example, we have been Mountain biking, walking and climbing – the pupils seem to have enjoyed these activities thoroughly.

The Skills section is the last section that pupils do towards their award before they go onto the expedition. Pupils have to do a something that requires a specific skill. This can be anything from baking to playing a musical instrument. As long as it involves using some kind of skill and gives our pupils some time away from a screen.



The expedition is the final part to the DofE award, it is a two day walk with one night of camping in between. Pupils have to walk and navigate all day to a campsite, before pitching their tents, cook a meal with camp equipment and then pack up and walk the next day to the end point where they are picked up. Pupils have to do this independently, without the help of staff, it is the most difficult part of the award which is why we do plenty of walking and navigating practice before we do it.

# Photography at Woodlands Academy!

## Snapping the days away!

Over the past three terms pupils who study photography have been engaging in some interesting and thought-provoking photographic shoots within the school. Due to the pandemic pupils have not been able to go off site and photograph certain subject matters for their course work.

A discussion was held with pupils about how Covid-19 can affect people mentally and physically. They came up with the idea of taking individual portraits of themselves and staff members, many of which are proudly displayed in school.

Other projects which pupils across all year groups are working on is a project which is called "Ephemeral" which means something that lasts for a short time. Pupils have already researched the locations this project will take place in and will now continue to practise within the school grounds. As you can see from the initial shots we are using coloured sheets which will represent the location we are in. By freezing the movement of the coloured sheet, it represents something that only lasts for a few seconds and no two shots will ever be the same. Once we capture these images on location, we hope to be able to display them across the academy in an exhibition.

Pupils have also been returning to some more familiar studio techniques of high key photography by taking a series of images of flowers. Pupils have been looking at the flowers in detail and seeing the beauty of the image when the flowers are bursting with life and when they start to lose all shape and form but still hold a certain beauty when photographed using the high key photographic technique.



If you are interested in the images we produce or would like to talk all things photography don't hesitate to contact the school. As the numbers of photographers grows across the school, we are always looking for second hand equipment either to purchase or gratefully receive as a donation knowing it will be put to full use by the pupils. Happy Snapping!



# Children's Mental Health Awareness Week + Christmas Surprises for Woodlands' Pupils!

This term has also seen Children's mental health awareness week.

As a school we continuously champion supporting our students with positive mental health and breaking down the barriers to achieving this.

At a time when we can't all be at school, home learning pressures are part of daily life and we are all missing our usual routine; it's easy to feel like things are a little tougher than they usually are.

We have been working with YoungMinds and Kooth to support our students. We recognise being a teenager is hard enough, without the added pressure of a pandemic and so is being a parent!

With that in mind, YoungMinds has created a great service that students and parents can access from home. Its confidential, supportive and run by professionals who know the best to support you.



After a difficult year for all, with challenging times for our students and families, we wanted to spread some Christmas cheer to all of our students. At Woodlands Academy our priority has always been to create a strong community, where all of our students feel valued, respected and cared for. It is important for us, as a school, that our students begin recognise the hard work and positive impact they have on the world around them. As part of our commitment to building a community that supports and shows a sense of pride in our students, we were lucky to have worked with a fantastic charity sponsor, to help us provide gifts for every child at Woodlands Academy.

Our staff worked hard to pick, collect and secretly wrap the gifts for everyone and our students were overjoyed to receive their surprise gifts. We hope all our students and families enjoyed their holiday and gifts, as much as we enjoyed wrapping them!

# Cooking Up A Storm in The Food Tech Room

## Food Glorious Food

Food technology has come on leaps and bounds this year; it is just a shame for lockdowns. KS4 pupils have worked with various ingredients some they have never even heard of all dishes from around the world, they have worked on various different cooking techniques from poaching, reverse searing and deep frying. These skills have been used to produce amazing new dishes that the learners didn't even think they could do.



Within Food Tech, we have had cook offs, Mr Taylor has been making dishes from around the world for staff and students. They have had the opportunity to try dishes that they would not usually such as jerk chicken and burritos!



KS3 have a new course which allows them to look at a little bit of everything the hospitality area has to offer! They look at health and safety, food safety, dishes that would be served in a restaurant and much more!

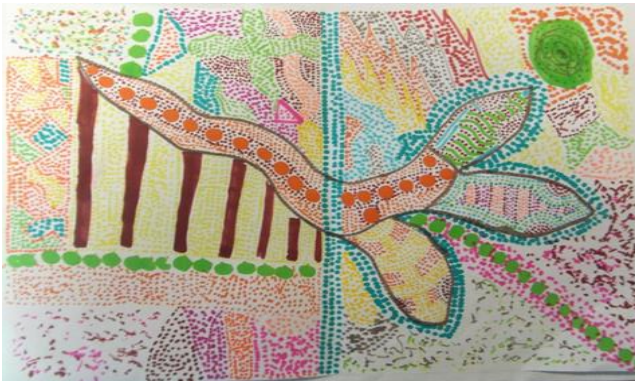


We have big things planned for the area. We are looking for funding so we can take pupils to a Michelin Star restaurant. We also want to give pupils the opportunity to taste some of the lovely food that Lincolnshire has to offer. Finally, we think it would be very beneficial for pupils to visit butchers and be given the chance to see how food looks before it hits the supermarket shelves!



## Smart Art Creating and Making!

In Year 7, pupils have been studying the wonderful works of Henri Rousseau who focuses on jungles. Their final project was to make their own collaged jungle scene. Next, they studied the works of John Banovich and mixed the work of these artists together to make clay pots, inspired by a 'wild thing'. Lastly, as a home learning project, year 7 pupils have been learning about Chinese kites. Pupils have been able to do lots of research into Chinese New Year Traditions, and then create their own kite designs!



The Year 8 pupils have been focusing on aboriginal art and the importance of it in aboriginal culture. They have created their own story art pieces and used pointillism to replicate the original style. Next, pupils created their own African masks. For this, they used papier-mâché and clay bases. Lastly, pupils have engaged in a 'creatures' project where they learnt about how animal paintings were used by cavemen. Pupils were then asked to have a go at creating their own cave painting!

Year 9 and 10 pupils have been delving into a project all about music. They have researched different album covers, and then looked at how surrealism ties into this. Following this, they used their new knowledge about surrealism to create their own 3D surrealist clay model. The pupils then looked at the work of Kandinsky, and learnt about how he used colours and shapes to express. They were then given the opportunity to try this in their own work. Year 10 have also been looking at Graffiti for their projects.

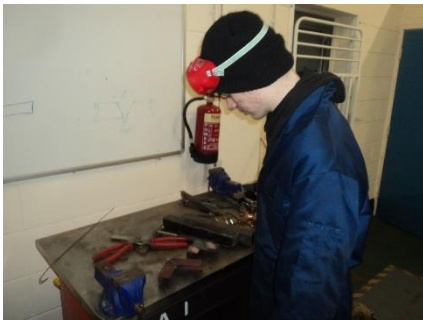


Initially, year 11 pupils were working on their GCSE project of 'Patterns in Nature'. They have experimented with different media as their projects develop in their sketchbooks. They have created different art pieces in cohesion with their project title, including clay and wire models, skulls made out of bark and nature and pattern related collages.

# The Fixer Uppers

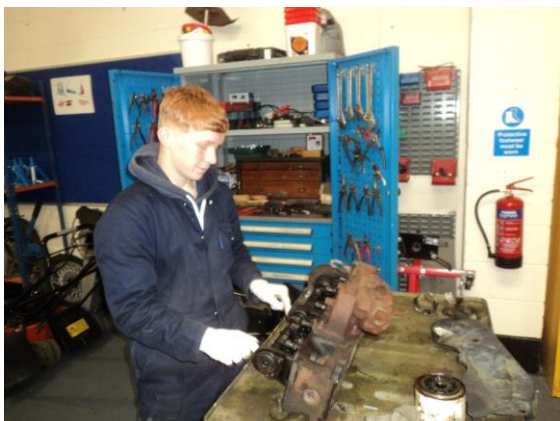
## Our BRAND NEW Engineering Unit!

Having moved into great new workshop facilities, this has allowed us to look at what is offered in engineering, and the curriculum. This has now taken a more dynamic shape with the addition of new motor vehicle technology, motor bikes, welding and fabrication. This allows a greater range to be offered to our learners and hopefully something for everybody to enjoy.



Motor Vehicles have been given a new range of units and projects that can be delivered, as well as a motor bike maintenance program. This is predominantly aimed at Year 11 – so they can fix what they break! Currently Year 9 and 10 pupils are working away on their mechanical component assembly skills and making excellent progress! We're seeing some very promising mechanics in the making!

In the engineering unit, a wider range of hand skills including measuring, identification of parts, being able to strip materials down and then build them back together again! Some of our Year 11 pupils are already working on welding and fabrication, and it is proving a great success!



Going forward, we are ready and set to bring new and exciting projects into Motor Vehicles! We are currently discussing a Go Kart challenge as well as doing cross-curricular projects with Design Technology, in the Woodlands area!

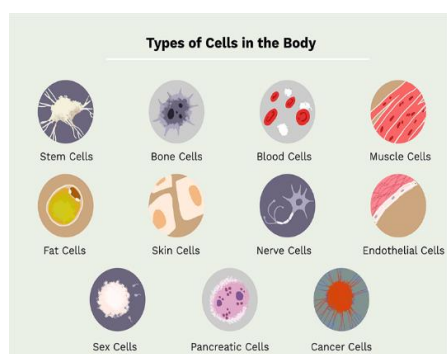
We are also going to be looking at new developments in car paintwork and bodywork, which would create a much bigger opportunity for our pupils!



# 'Hooked' onto Chemistry

## - Shooting Shots in P.E -

In Science this term, we have been working on developing our practical skills throughout Year 7-11. Yr9-11 pupils have been enjoying seeing their progress towards the new Entry Level qualification we are working towards by the completion of practical tasks and mini tests. It has been a pleasure to see how well pupils are doing with some completing their Entry level qualification and moving on to study GCSE Chemistry. Entry Level Science allows pupils to see small amounts of progress, as they work towards completing 36 end of unit tests, 16 can do tasks which include key practical skills needed for GCSE and one practical write up which we have completed chromatography of ink or some students have looked at Hooke's Law.



Luckily, Covid-19 has not stopped our pupils from participating in PE and sports, we've just been careful to ensure that we social-distance and sanitise even more than usual! For the pupils who are learning from home, Mr Backhouse has been creating fitness videos that are being posted onto TEAMS. Joe Wicks – watch your back!

Mr Backhouse has been working hard on the PE curriculum, and is excited to reintroduce wheelchair basketball. Pupils will also have the chance to explore different skills such as striking and fielding. They will also get to dip their toes into the world of net games and invasion games!



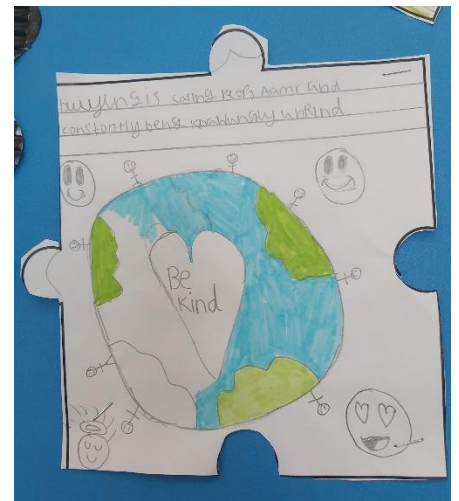
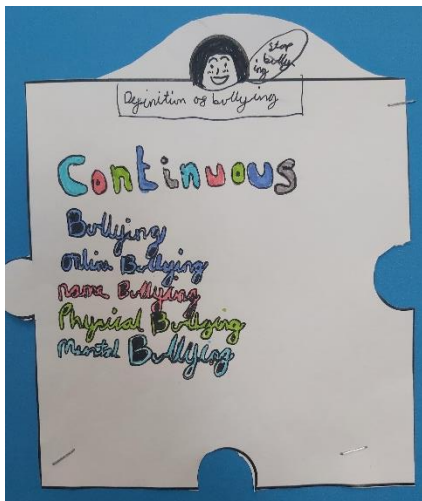
# Learning 4 Life

## Preparing for the future...



Over the last term, year 7 have been developing a positive attitude to our school community. One of our focuses has been building awareness of our school's anti-bullying policy.

In order to raise awareness year 7 worked on creating a range of puzzle pieces highlighting the importance of kindness and supporting each other. The student's created some amazing puzzle pieces that reflect their school's commitment to creating a safe and supported space for themselves and their peers. Not only did creating the puzzle pieces enable our groups to have an honest discussion about the impact of bullying in our community but they helped spread a positive message about the support they can offer one another, in a creative and imaginative way.



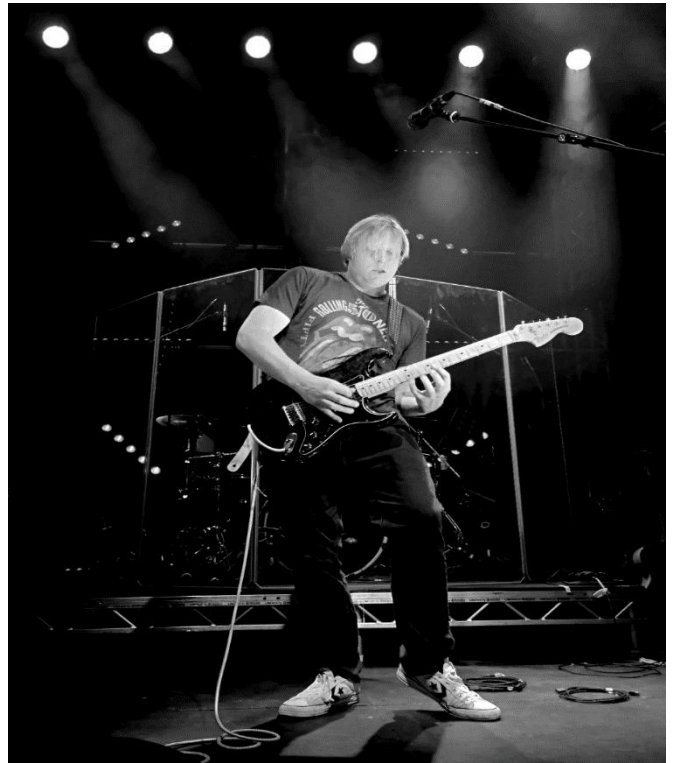


## Meet two New members of Staff!

### Introducing Kev and Jenny!

Kev Richardson is a performer, musical director, arranger, composer and tutor of music. Based in Lincoln, he has performed across Europe and America from small intimate venues to large outdoor stages and festivals. He has worked in theatre for over 20 years and is now a Musical Director as well as an in demand musician. As an arranger/composer, Kev has credits with EMI, The BBC, Channel 4, Comedy Central and Sky TV to name a few.

Kev has been teaching both privately and in schools for nearly 16 years and plans for Woodlands Academy include guitar/ukulele lessons, drum/percussion lessons, piano lessons and music production lessons. There will be the opportunity for students to write and produce their own music using professional audio equipment whilst learning to use the software found in recording studios.



Jennie Forman is a person-centred counsellor, and founder of Youthoria Counselling Services. Jennie has been coming into school to work with some of our pupils and getting on really well. Jennie offers many different counselling services, including private sessions and group work.

Jennie is mindful to ensure everybody that counselling is not a sign of weakness, in fact, it takes a lot of courage.

Jennie takes an eclectic approach to counselling, and focussed on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT). She is a member of the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies.