

# THE WOODLANDER

Issue 10



The success stories continue.....

This is the 10th edition of *The Woodlander* and we hope it continues to give you an insight into life at The Woodlands.

## ACTIVITIES WEEK



In July, the school held its first 'Activities Week'. Mr Smith and other staff organised lots of trips and activities and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable few days. The week culminated in an 'It's a Knockout' style event, organised by Mrs Newman and Mr Young, which was held on the school fields. See pages 12-13 for photos and details of all the fun!

**This edition of The Woodlander is our biggest yet, with sixteen pages packed full of news and featuring activities and events which the students and staff at The Woodlands School have taken part in over the Summer Term. We hope you enjoy seeing the photos and reading all about the action-packed events!**

## SPORTS DAY

Sports Day was, once again, a wonderful afternoon of athletics and inter-House fun. See page 14 for photos and details of the event.



## ON THE MOVE

In September, we welcome over 140 new students into our Year Seven. Having already joined us for the City-wide Induction Day in July, they have had the opportunity to spend some time in their new House getting to know their Tutor, House Head and to make new friends. They had an enjoyable day, taking part in some lessons. See page 2 to find out what they are looking forward to at their new school.



## Rotary Club interschool



Some of our very talented musicians have taken part in the prestigious Rotary Club inter-school talent competition at Warwick University. They had a lot of fun and received much praise for their performance. See page 3 for details of the evening's fun.

## Bowling TREAT



Year 7 students from McLachlan House have had such a fantastic first year at The Woodlands, so their tutor, Miss Sedgwick, decided they deserved a treat - a trip to Laser Quest and bowling. See page 7 for the full story of all the fun!

# BLACK COUNTRY MUSEUM TRIP



On a recent PSHCE Day, the Year 8's enjoyed a visit to the Black Country Museum. While visiting the museum, students were able to interact with the characters in the original shops and houses, ride on a tramcar or fairground swingboat, join in a lesson at the old-fashioned school and discover what it was like to be a miner in the underground coal mine. The trip enabled them to bring to life knowledge they have learned about the Industrial Revolution. They were able to see traditional skills from sweet-making and glass-cutting to metal-working but as usual the most popular skills were to be found in the traditional Fish and Chip shop!



## ON THE MOVE

As this academic year draws to a close, we prepare to say goodbye to our Year 13 and Year 11 students who are leaving the school to continue their education at a higher education establishment or to take up employment. We send them our best wishes for their future careers. Of course, many of our Year 11's have chosen to stay on to study in the West Coventry Sixth Form (Woodlands/Tile Hill Wood).



We are delighted to once again welcome over 140 new students into our Year 7 in September. They will be no strangers to us, as many of them have attended the school for various transition visits. Also the entire year group attended our Induction Day on 14th July and their parents/carers were welcomed into their new House at the Parents' Evening on the following evening. On the Induction Day the Year 6's enjoyed meeting their new Tutor and Househead, as well as making friends with the other boys in their Tutor Group. They spent the day taking part in activities and lessons including music, technology and science. Jack, from Bournebrook CE Primary School in Fillongley, says that he is looking forward to doing sports and ICT lessons at The Woodlands. Aaron, from Christ the King Junior School, enjoys science and history and is looking forward to making new friends. Daniel, from St. John's, is looking forward to earning Reward Stamps. Craig is joining us from Leigh CE Primary School and is looking forward to sports, maths and geography. Max, from St. Christopher, says he is looking forward to trying out new subjects. Rupesh, from Hill Farm Primary School says he is looking forward to trying new sports.



We are delighted to once again welcome over 140 new students into our Year 7 in September. They will be no strangers to us, as many of them have attended the school for various transition visits. Also the entire year group attended our Induction Day on 14th July and their parents/carers were welcomed into their new House at the Parents' Evening on the following evening. On the Induction Day the Year 6's enjoyed meeting their new Tutor and Househead, as well as making friends with the other boys in their Tutor Group. They spent the day taking part in activities and lessons including music, technology and science. Jack, from Bournebrook CE Primary School in Fillongley, says that he is looking forward to doing sports and ICT lessons at The Woodlands. Aaron, from Christ the King Junior School, enjoys science and history and is looking forward to making new friends. Daniel, from St. John's, is looking forward to earning Reward Stamps. Craig is joining us from Leigh CE Primary School and is looking forward to sports, maths and geography. Max, from St. Christopher, says he is looking forward to trying out new subjects. Rupesh, from Hill Farm Primary School says he is looking forward to trying new sports.



Top left Students from St. John's CE Primary School. Bottom left - some of the students transferring to us from St.Christopher Primary School. Top right - some of the boys joining us from Bournebrook CE Primary. Middle/top left Rupesh and Jamie from Hill Farm. Above - some of the students joining us from Leigh CE Primary school and bottom, right, Aaron from Christ the King Catholic Junior school.

# Rotary Club inter-school Talent Competition

Following the success of the Year 11 concert just before Easter, the school decided to enter the Year 11 band into The Rotary Club of Coventry's inter-school talent competition which took place at The Butterworth Hall at Warwick Arts Centre.



The competition is quite a prestigious affair and was held in front of many media associates and hosted by a Mercia Radio station breakfast show presenter. Each performing group/artist had an allocated slot on stage in which they performed in front of a panel of "celebrity" judges.

Mr Evans, our Head of Music, gave huge congratulations to the boys who took part in the competition. He said "It was an incredible evening and an amazing stage on which to perform. As is always the case with public performances, our boys showed maturity, manners and patience throughout the afternoon and evening, even with 30 girls from Coundon Court screaming in their ears during the first half!



There were many memorable moments during the event, particularly when the boys met some of Coventry's dignitaries: at one point the Lord Mayor and his wife were introduced and the students talked briefly about their performance. Afterwards Ryan Fisher said "I can't believe I've just shaken hands with the Pope"!!! As Mr Evans said....."not quite, Ryan, but who knows maybe one day...!!!!!"

Mr Evans added "There were many talented performances from lots of Coventry's schools, that ranged from break-dancers to scenes taken from musicals, but there was nothing quite like the ambitious performance that our students produced. Despite some difficulties with the sound systems, they went on to give an outstanding and very professional performance. Many people told us backstage, and after the concert, that they thought our boys were incredible and the best on the night." One of the judges commented saying that "the performance wasn't just good it was amazing...". He also said that he would like to put the boys in touch with one of Coventry's record producers to see how far they could go. These were, by far, the most impressive comments from the judges to any of the contestants during the night."



Although we didn't win the competition (Henry VIII's came first and second!) our boys certainly gave the crowd a good show and did a great public service for Woodlands.

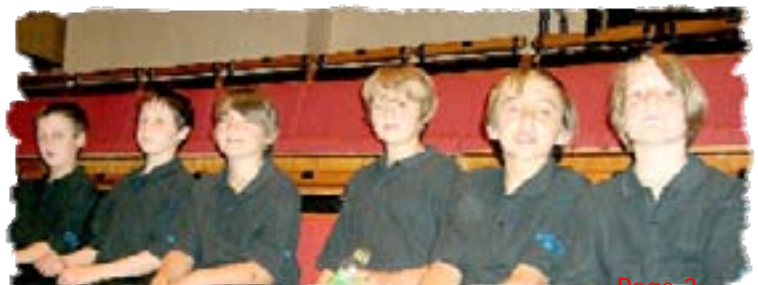
Well done to : Tim Boyce (drums), Michael Ryan (vocals), Ryan Fisher (lead guitar), Scott Dunn (bass guitar), Shane Doughty (vocals), Charlie Freeman (rhythm guitar).....and as a last minute addition due to a singing cancellation - Jordan Graham (Vocals) from Year 10.

## SING UP, BOYS!!!



Last year, The Woodlands School were invited to take part in a singing initiative organised by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO), intended to encourage more boys to take up singing. The result was the formation of the first Woodlands Boys Choir which went on to perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall last summer, in a choir that was made up of over 500 young people from The Midlands. It was a spectacular occasion and The Woodlands boys

stood out with their excellent behaviour and wonderful enthusiasm. It was no surprise that they got invited back again this year for a similar concert. Our choir was mostly made up of Year 7 and 8 students, with some Year 9 boys involved. This year, on July 2nd, they went back to the Symphony Hall to sing a Rogers and Hammerstein medley entitled 'Boys on Broadway'. Although this was a 'pre-concert' performance, members of the public, friends and family packed into the Grand Hall to witness another fine vocal recital that had the audience singing along in many places. The Choir Master told Mr Evans and Miss Pearce, after the show, that The Woodlands School were an example to all the other schools that took part and that the performance would simply not have been a success without The Woodlands' participation. Well done to all involved!



# Peer Mentors

At the Woodlands we have various positions of responsibility within each House which are filled by students. Peer Mentors are 'employed' by their Houses to look after the new intake, on Induction Day and throughout their time in Year 7. Towards the end of Year 7, students are invited to apply for the position of Peer Mentor. Students apply, in writing, stating why they would like the job and they must give reasons why they think they should be picked. After careful consideration, each Tutor selects four students who are then offered the position of Peer Mentor in their House. This year, at the end of June the selected students were presented with a Peer Mentor badge by Mr Quigley, Deputy Head, and they then took part in a day of intense training with Mr Phipps and Miss Pearce. The training consisted of lots



of role play activities where the students remembered how they felt in Year 6 about starting a new school. They then worked out ways in which they would be able to help new students to settle into their new school environment. James East (Sparkes) said he wanted to become a Peer Mentor because he found them helpful when he was new to the school and he wants to pass on his experiences "to help the new pupils and make them feel welcome". Sam Kirby (Stringer) said "I enjoy helping new people and especially building their confidence so they are not afraid to talk to anyone". One of Thompson's new Peer Mentors, Christopher Gentry, said "when I first started at The Woodlands, I was nervous and worried about finding my classes so I would like to help the Year 6's with any fears or questions they may have. Arran Pallan (McLachlan) said he wanted to be a Peer Mentor because "I have already helped a new boy settle in my class and I enjoyed showing him around the school and introducing him to other boys and the teachers".



## Modern Pentathlon

Our Year 9 Sports Leaders organised and led a Modern Pentathlon Event at The Woodlands School, on June 29<sup>th</sup>, as part of National Schools' Sport Week, with the aim of students trying out new Olympic sports. The Sports Leader team were Joe Higgins, Luke Rose and Louis Addleton (left), Tom Barber (right), Jake Powell and Aaron Skyrme. The Pentathlon included running, swimming, shooting, riding and fencing. The event was supported by a modern

pentathlon shooting coaching team, Moor Farm Riding Stables and Salle Ursa Fencing Club. The students planned the whole event and organised, led and supported activities on the day. The day was a fantastic success with many students asking to carry on with the new sports. The Leaders really valued the event and want to organise more events in the future. They said that they enjoyed organising the events although the organisation for the horse riding was the most difficult part as they had to book places at the stables, organise transport and complete all relevant paperwork.



# YOUR SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!!!

**Do you have green fingers?****Do you have some have time to volunteer?**

We are very lucky to have such beautiful outside spaces here at The Woodlands. The students and staff at school are currently working on plans to undertake various projects to help make the very best of our site and the experience of everyone who use it (for people and wildlife!), under the leadership of our Business Manager, Mr Miles, who is co-ordinating the staff site improvement group.

If anyone wishes to volunteer help of any kind to contribute to this project, we would be extremely grateful. If you have access to any of the things we need to help us improve the site (plants, timber for fencing, outside furniture, gardening equipment, labour, etc.), or organisations who might be able to donate these things or provide them at reduced cost, please could you contact Mr Miles on 02476 462634 or [adam.miles@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:adam.miles@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk).



## House Games



Each Wednesday after school, Ellis House opens its doors to the students from all Houses, where they are invited to take part in House Games. There is the opportunity for students to take part in games such as pool, table-tennis and table-football as well as board games.

Yusuf Broujerdi (right), 7Cr, said "I like everything about House games, especially the table football". 'I really like it because you can have fun with your friends, the equipment is good and brand new. Connan Bonsor (8Mc) said "You can have a laugh and it's good that the other Houses, not just Ellis boys can go." Lee Patterson (7EI) is pleased that the club is opened up to other Houses because "'You get a nice mix of people there".

If any families have any board games that they no longer play with, and would like to donate them to Ellis House for their House Games evenings, then please feel free to give any contributions to the school's reception or to staff in Ellis House. All donations of games will be gratefully received.

## Year 7 Visit to Aston University



Thirty-seven Year 7 students went on a Modern Languages and 'Aim Higher' visit to Aston University. On arrival, the group split into two: half were taken on a guided tour of the university grounds, visiting the student accommodation, student welfare and leisure facilities, plus the study areas such as the library and the various academic schools. The other half were taken to a computer room where they saw a presentation about Québec. After a short break, the groups swapped. For the afternoon they went into a lecture room, and the boys were taught something only usually covered in Year 8. They showed great enthusiasm and endeavour as they worked out a tricky piece of grammar, and produced work at Level 5 –

which is most impressive after only eight months of study of the subject! As always the boys were a credit to themselves and the school. Angela Morris, the 'Route into Languages co-ordinator at Aston University, commented, "The boys were a great group to work with – enthusiastic and interested in all of the activities. I'd be more than happy to arrange visits for your groups next year and will look forward to meeting more of your pupils." The school will certainly be returning with this Year group next year, to do a number of different activities, and look forward to taking next year's Year 7s on a similar visit.



Once again there is lots of news to report from the Art and Design Department. Below, you will be able to read all about the success of our most talented artists.

## Year 8 – Picasso Portrait

- 1<sup>st</sup> Harry Donnelly (Stringer)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Declan Hubbard (Stringer)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> George Tuson (Thompson)

## Year 8 – Plant Section

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sam Richards (Stringer)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Declan Hubbard (Stringer)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Alex Houston (Thompson)



## Year 8 Art Homework Competition Winners

Left (top) Alex. Left (bottom) George.  
Below (L-R) Harry, Sam and Declan



The Woodlands School held yet another very successful GCSE and A Level Art and Photography Exhibition which showcased art work created by some of the most talented students in the city.

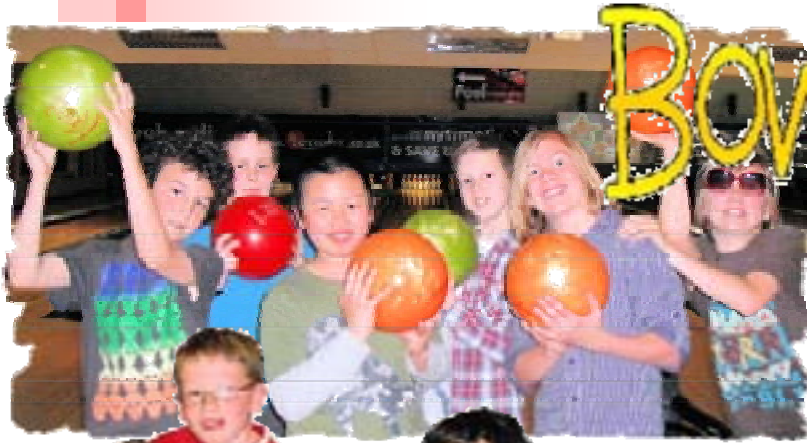
The A'Level exhibition consisted of work from Year 12 and 13 students currently studying A'Level Fine Art and Photography at The Woodlands School. This year has been one of the best exhibitions yet, with students creating a diverse range of work, from contemporary pieces to the more traditional. Previously, some of The Woodlands students have been acknowledged as being among the best in the country and we are hoping for a third consecutive year to achieve even better results. The GCSE Art Exhibition, in The Main Hall, was a fantastic display of art and 3D graphic models.



In addition to The Woodlands Art Exhibitions, Year 12 students Matty Hemmings and Jack Brown, Year 13 student Joe Waterfield as well as Connor Hollingsworth Year 10 (above, left) , and Callum Hollinshead (Year 11, pictured below) exhibited their work at the Herbert Art Gallery from 14th June to 4th July. Visitors to the exhibition were asked to vote for their favourite exhibit, and we are delighted to announce that Joe Waterfield, (pictured above, right), won the award and was presented with a prize of gift vouchers, by the Herbert Art Gallery.



Each year, the school awards talented artists with various trophies, and this year, Callum Hollinshead has been awarded the school's Wilkinson/Clayden Art Trophy, Josh Palmer has been awarded the Jackson Trophy for Art, whilst Connor Hollingsworth has been awarded the Colin Dick Trophy for Graphics and Joe Waterfield has been awarded the Flitcroft Art Trophy. Mrs Evans, Curriculum Leader (Art and Design) said "We are delighted to have such talented students in our school".



# Bowling TREAT

One afternoon after school, Miss Sedgwick and her Year 7 (McLachlan) tutor group went on a much deserved bowling and Laser Quest trip, accompanied by some of the McLachlan House staff. Miss Sedgwick has been really proud of her tutor group this year, especially with the way they have all become such good friends. She said "After a wonderful start at The Woodlands School, the boys of Year 7 McLachlan have made me, Mrs Whelan, and the rest of the House staff, very proud. Their attitude and punctuality, attendance and fantastically fun personalities have made them a pleasure and a welcome addition to the House. For this reason we planned an evening of bowling and Laser Quest. It was a great evening with a lot of laughter and we all got to know each other a little more. I look forward to more fun times ahead".

Matthew Keegan said "I've had a great year this year, and our tutor, Miss Sedgwick, thought so too so she rewarded us by taking us bowling. We had a good time with the House staff and we all became better friends and learned to work as a team". Thomas Wan said, "We went bowling as a treat and to get to know each other better. We also went to Laser Quest which was fun. I like being in McLachlan House because it's like a close family". Jack Painter said "It was fun going bowling and to Laser Quest because we go to know each other better. We went because our Tutor Group did well throughout the year. We all have a laugh and we are like our own little community".



**NEW LOOK  
WEBSITE  
COMING  
SOON!!**

The Woodlands School website is getting a makeover!! It is currently being re-designed and will be on-line from September 2010. Our website address is [www.thewoodlandsschool.org](http://www.thewoodlandsschool.org). Our website contains many galleries containing photos and videos of events and lessons which the students at the school have taken part in recently.



## Corey Venus



You will have seen from the Spring Term edition of *The Woodlander* that Corey Venus (Stringer House), has already played rugby for Leicestershire and represented England at Under-16 level this year. Corey has now been awarded a two-year contract with Leicester Tigers to play for their academy side.

Corey said: "It's not all about rugby, it's also about trying to be a success in the classroom as Leicester have had several reports over the last year about attitude and work rate here at The

Woodlands, as well as in my rugby. I am really pleased to have been offered this position and I know that the real hard work starts now."

Mrs Newman, Corey's Househead said "Corey consistently works hard at his rugby. His dedication to the sport is commendable and the fruits of his labour are now flourishing. We, as a House, are extremely proud of Corey's achievements and look forward to seeing a future international rugby star born and bred of The Woodlands School. I'm sure his time at the 'Tigers' will equip him for great things." As a school, we wish Corey all the best for his future rugby career. Well done!



## Sam Parsons

Hugh Robertson, Minister for Sport and the Olympics, and Steve Grainger, Chief Executive Officer for the Youth Sport Trust, have written to Sam to invite him to compete in the Badminton event at the Sainsbury's UK School Games in North East England in September 2010. This prestigious competition is being hosted across Gateshead, Newcastle and Sunderland. This is a fantastic achievement for Sam, who is a very accomplished badminton player.

The Sainsbury's UK School Games is a wonderful opportunity for school age athletes to be part of a multi-sport event and to have an insight into competing at the highest level against the best athletes from around the UK. With a total of ten sports, and around 1600 competitors, the event promises to be a fantastic celebration of youth sport, with the hope that it will inspire the competitors to go for gold in the spirit of friendship and fair play. The bespoke Culture and Education Programme means that Sam will access the latest innovative support for talented young sportspeople. We wish Sam every success in the competition.



## Matthew Rose

Year 11 Sparkes student Matthew is an excellent cross-country runner, as readers of *The Woodlander* will know. Earlier this year, Matthew ran for England in a tournament in Cornwall and he came 3rd in the national competition. On Saturday 10th July, Matthew competed in the National Championships in Birmingham, where he came 7th in the 3000m event.

Many congratulations to Matthew, and best wishes for future competitions.

Welcome to the second edition of 'M&J's Bit.' This edition is all about 'The greatest let-downs and mistakes in history.' Some of our recent let-downs include stuff as simple as bad weather on Matty's last holiday or losing money in a vending machine when you desperately need that can of Coke!



However, there is one mistake and let-down that people just haven't got over for weeks and



As you'd expect, we all got really excited before this year's World Cup. The school got decked out in flags; Houses ran competitions to guess scores; the kitchen staff gave away free breakfasts to winners; we wrote poetry, drew posters and a few of us even said prayers, all to send England on their way with the greatest of hope and belief of a school and a nation. We really did think that this year we would bring it home.

But enough of that, let's get a reality check. England were a massive disappointment in the 2010 FIFA World Cup Finals, and the players and manager made mistakes after being (stupidly) named the 'golden generation'. England struggled in the easiest of groups and then got knocked out by the Germans in the second round. Just hours later the team were caught drinking and partying and apparently some players claimed they hate England!

This is a cheeky little quote for FIFA President, Sepp Blatter; "Admitting errors clears the score and proves you wiser than before". Thank you, American poet Arthur Guiterman. Maybe this will help with all that goal-line tech malarkey. Still, all manner of technology would not have saved Robert Green's howler in that first game! In a couple of short weeks and disappointing games, all that hope and decoration comes crashing down. Why do we do this to ourselves?!



This got us thinking about let-downs and mistakes, so we thought we'd tell you about a pretty big one!!



Did you know: There was once a guy who was part owner of a small soft drink business. He sold his share for a tiny fee because he didn't like the name of the product, and instead invested in a new company called the Raspberry Cola Company. Heard of them? Thought not. But you probably have heard of the company he sold (with the dodgy name) - Coca-Cola. What an idiot hey? Bet he was gutted when he saw Coke becoming massive! Just goes to show, don't make a judgement based only on a name!

To finish, though, here are some mistakes closer to home. In school we are told that making mistakes is a good thing and that we should learn from our mistakes and make sure that we use it to make things better. Here are some of our favourite real mistakes made by pupils sitting in exams or class and who make simple spelling mistakes:

- ◆ Two halves make a whale
- ◆ That is the end of my project on porkypines. My next one will be about armydillos.
- ◆ After I saw the school nurse I felt butter, on the hole
- ◆ Then Joan of Ark met her end. They burned her as a steak.
- ◆ My favourite subject is history. I like looking into the post to see what I can find.



We could go on and on! The thing is, though, we shouldn't be afraid of making mistakes. Lots of us don't try something if we think we might fail at it. And even though making mistakes can sometimes be embarrassing and bad, it is much better, we reckon, to have a go and fail than not have a go at all.

Cheers!



*Matty and Jake*

# Post-16 visit to the Natural History Museum

Science Enrichment trip to the Natural History Museum, London: the Work of Charles Darwin, and The Cocoon Centre

A group of Sixth Form students went to London to visit the Natural History Museum. Some students had never been to London, others had been to see shows or a particular concert/event. However, all of the students will be going back to visit the Natural History Museum!

First, there was time to look at some of the exhibits in the Main Hall including the famous dinosaurs and evolution of man displays. Then it was time for the 'behind the scenes' Spirit Tour where they were taken through to the 'research and business' side of the NHM by one of the researchers. They were taken to the vast rooms where tens of thousands of species are kept, and even to the 'no-entry' rooms but these had a web-cam so we could watch as beetles were eating the flesh off a skeleton. They went through to the enormous tank rooms where the 7m long giant squid and many other amazing specimens are preserved and used for research. One of the highlights was when they were taken to see the species that Charles Darwin brought back from his journeys before he came up with the Theory of Evolution. It was fantastic to see the actual bottles, labelled by him and many contained the first examples of those species found in the world – over 40 of them!

The trip continued to be breathtaking, as they left the research area and went into the Darwin Centre and The Cocoon. These are where NHM share the excitement of exploring, studying and preserving nature in this dramatic public space and state-of-the-art scientific research centre. It is completely interactive and you get a credit card type pass (as you go in) on which you can collect information, images, and the results of interactive games as you go round. Then when you get home you can log on to the website and collect all the information. Our students really impressed the curator.



After nearly seven hours of exploring, they finally decided to call it a day. They then took in some other culture by visiting the National Portrait Gallery before a tired (but very happy) group returned to Coventry. It was a fantastic trip and the Science Department hope to run a similar trip for other year groups this coming year! In the meantime, you can go yourselves, or look online at <http://www.nhm.ac.uk>.



## COMMUNITY DAY

On Friday 9th July, Limbrick Wood Primary School and Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School held a joint Community Day at the Jardine Crescent Shopping Centre and surrounding areas.

Twelve of our Year 10 students were invited by the Head Teacher of Limbrick Wood Primary School to go along to the event to help out.

Each student was assigned, in pairs, to a different year group where they all took pride in escorting the younger students to and from events, setting up and running various stalls. The children had the opportunity to learn to DJ, as well as learning to fence and to ascend a climbing wall. They could also learn graffiti art and circus tricks.



The Year 10's really got stuck into the day, which was an enjoyable and successful day for all!



# "Making a positive contribution..."



As part of the *Every Child Matters (ECM)* enrichment timetable for Year 11 this year - along with such diverse offers as Survival Skills, Food Hygiene Certificate, Theatre-in-Education and Introduction to Carpentry - many Year 11 students were also the first to pilot the new Working in the Community course run by our Deputy Head. Prior to their placements, all the students followed an Induction Course on child protection, special educational needs/disability and the primary classroom. They were also asked to phone the head-teachers to arrange to attend an interview before the first afternoon's work.



A total of 69 students spent a half-term in eleven of our local primary schools supporting the staff and students on Wednesday afternoons. The written and verbal responses we received from head-teachers, reception staff, teaching assistants, parents and primary teachers were extremely positive, as recognition of the excellent efforts of our senior students whilst they were working at the primary schools. In addition, many of the Year 11 students gained personal confidence as well as insights into primary education and an adult work-place. All the primary schools provided written testimonials for our students' records of achievements and curriculum vitae.



Over the course of the year, a wide range of tasks and activities were supported by our students including preparing primary students for SAT's exams, accompanying them on trips, supervising PE lessons with teachers, listening to primary students reading, carrying out technical tasks for the school and supporting classes wherein every subject on the school curriculum was taking place! One student streamlined the head-teacher's assembly portfolio for him; two others created a reading wall on "Books you must read before leaving Year 6"; one re-organised the school library for a re-launch; others helped primary students to prepare for Christmas shows etc.

The Year 11 students were visited by our staff during every week of their placement throughout the year and it was clear that the students had made a significant impression and had certainly painted themselves, their families, The Woodlands and the 16-year old teenage male in a very, very good light. All eleven schools have agreed to work with us again next year with the new Year 11 and we hope for similar positive results.

Allesley Primary School

Allesley Hall Primary School

Eastern Green Junior School

Leigh CE Primary School

Limbrick Wood Primary School

Mount Nod Primary School

Park Hill Primary School

St. Andrews Infant School

St. John's CE Primary School

Templars Primary School

Whoberley Primary School



## YEAR 11 ELLIS VISIT CANLEY FIRE STATION

Year 11 Ellis spent a PSCE day at Canley station learning CPR, the recovery position and what you should do at the scene of an accident.



## Post-16 Chemistry

Every school should have one! The fundamental ideas of balanced chemical equations, moles of substance, the ideal gas equation, rates of reaction, enthalpies of combustion and much more can be demonstrated with a carbide cannon. So how much calcium carbide is required to make the biggest bang? For a 10 dm<sup>3</sup> cannon, it turns out to be 21.3 grams or 0.332 moles. Just add water and **BANG!!!**



## MR SMITH writes:

"I remember it well (ok maybe that is a little white lie, I have had to check the date, opposition, score and goal scorers but apart from that....). My first ever Woodlands School trip. England v Poland, Wembley Stadium (old one) 9<sup>th</sup> October 1996 in a World Cup qualifier for France 1998.

I had had an interesting start to my Woodlands career and around about the end of my first month my first Househead gave me a great piece of advice. In his typical Yorkshire twang he said, "You know what lad, you need to get involved in some out of school activities. Give the kids a chance to see you outside of the classroom". Ok that might not have been exactly what he said but it was something along those lines. You know what? He was spot on. After that first trip I got involved in all manner of activities and developed some brilliant relationships with students that I took into the classroom. I have repeated this advice to many new teachers over the last ten years, and I think that some may even have listened!

School is not just about learning for exams but about wider experiences. How many of us remember our school days as, "the best years of our lives"? This was my motivation behind introducing an Activities Week to The Woodlands for the first time. From July 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> this year it happened and what an experience it was! Across these pages, and on our website, you will see photos of staff and students mixing together in all manner of fun locations. From Alton Towers to the Snowdome. From the London Eye to Paintball. From Waterworld to Star City. From Trent Bridge to the Warwickshire countryside. From Euro Disney to Rough Close. (I bet those two locations have never been in the same sentence before!). I have had nothing but positive reports from all the staff and some really nice emails from centres congratulating our boys on their behaviour and enthusiasm. Stories from the staff and students were full of excitement and gratitude for being given the opportunity to do something different.

Perhaps the best was saved until last and on Friday afternoon the entire school took part in an "It's a Knockout" spectacular. There was no Stewart Hall (as he was at Star City!) or any Belgians but the event was a tremendous success. Sumo suits, tug of war, pugil sticks, human skittles and a top class obstacle course rounded off the week in tremendous style. Smiles on the faces of staff and students were visible all over the field and for one afternoon there was no mention of books, learning, reports or targets. Mrs Newman and Mr Young deserve enormous credit for this.

I think back once again to that piece of advice and wonder how many students will have sat in a classroom over the last week or so and remembered his teacher evading water bombs or flying down a ride, hiding from paintballs or tobogganing down a snowy slope in Tamworth and smile and think differently of that teacher.

These three days truly showed Woodlands at its brilliant best.

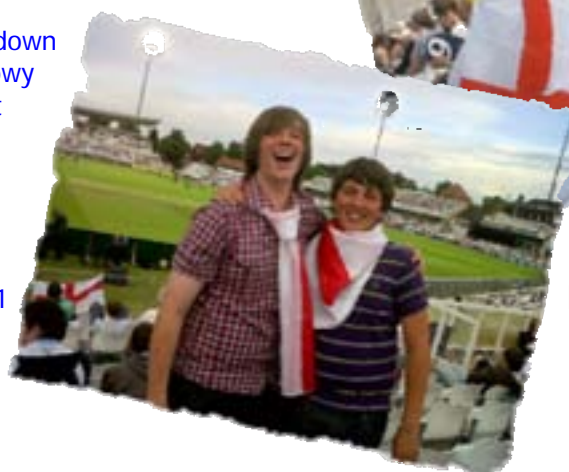
Look out for details of the new and improved 2011 version. I for one cannot wait!

Oh, and by the way, England won 2-1 with two goals from Alan Shearer. Thanks Wikipedia!"

# ACTIVITIES



**Trip to Bosworth Water Park**



**Trip to Trent Bridge Cricket Ground**

# WEEK



# It's a Knockout!!



# SPORTS DAY



The Woodlands School Sports Day was, as always, a fantastic event this year, with many students taking part in this annual inter-House event. With students from Years 7-10 taking part in all track and field events, it was a spectacular show of athletic talent, held at the Warwick University track. But, as with all inter-House events, it really is 'the taking part that counts' as this year was exceptionally close, points-wise, with Stringer House finishing in 1st place, and Cresswell House a very close 2nd! There were some excellent displays in javelin, discus, high-jump, shot, long-jump, triple-jump, hurdles, 75m, 100m, 150m, 200m, 400m, 600m, 1000m, 1500m and the relay events. Well done to all competitors!



# All change in McLachlan

## **Retirement of Mrs Judith Whelan**

This term sees the semi-retirement of Judith Whelan, who will return to the school in September to teach English part-time and join the staff of the Student Support Centre.



Mrs Whelan joined The Woodlands in September 1990 from Binley Park School. As a new member of the English Department, she was one of the pioneers of drama teaching at The Woodlands, long before the arrival of Mr Shelton and the creation of the Performing Arts Department! At this time drama was taught as part of the English curriculum. She later became the Deputy Head of the English Department for a number of years, working in tandem with Mr Parkins. On a whole school level, she also went on to direct several of the annual Christmas pantomimes (all with seven dwarves, irrespective of which pantomime was being done!) which were very highly regarded by the school and its community during the 1990's.

In her earlier years here she was a Tutor in Malins House, and later McLachlan. When Mr Clayden moved from his McLachlan House Head role to become Head of Art, Mrs Whelan became the first female House Head in the history of the school, setting the precedent for Mrs Anderton and Mrs Newman to follow! Mr Quigley, Deputy Head, said of Mrs Whelan "Throughout her years in the role she has managed to instil an incredible sense of loyalty and cohesion in both her staff and her students, and this remains the case to this day. Her early career years as a PE teacher and her involvement in directing performing arts shows outside of school reflect the same dimension of a great understanding of young people and a desire to support them in their diverse activities."

One of the many staff who passed through her House during the past few years was Mr Phipps who will return to McLachlan as the new House Head in September, following stints as Acting House Head of West House and Deputy House Head of Sparkes. His Deputy House Head will be Mrs Palmer, who will also take the role of Year 11 Tutor.

## **Creative and Media students perform in City Centre theatre**

On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, students from The Woodlands performed in the country's first professional Shopfront Theatre, in the City Arcade. The Theatre is occupied by Theatre Absolute, and this professional company has been working with students on the Creative and Media Diploma.

Taking place on one full day per week, the course is taught with staff and students from a number of South West Federation schools. For their Performance unit, the students worked to a brief set by Theatre Absolute, and had to produce mini-plays on the theme of 'The Cost Of Living', performing to lunchtime and evening audiences.

Mr Phipps, who co-ordinates the Creative and Media Diploma for Woodlands, says, "It is a really challenging subject for the students as it asks them to think and learn in new ways, set in real situations and often outside the classroom. It has been one of my favourite subjects to be a part of; we have really embraced working across schools so that all students benefit."

This theme is echoed by David Paton, a Year 9 McLachlan student, who has been part of the course this year. David adds, "We have to work with other students and with professionals to produce products of good quality, and so standards have to be really high. It has been much harder than I thought it would be at first as there is a lot to learn, but it is one of my favourite subjects. I really enjoy working with students from other schools - and girls(!) - and meeting new teachers."

As well as Theatre Absolute, this year the class has also worked with a professional musician to create a music video and a local nightclub to promote an under-18s night, amongst others. David says, "Working with professional people has shown me what it is like to work in the real world. I have learned loads this year."

## Become a sponsor of *The Woodlander*

If you run a business you may be interested in the opportunity for some additional low-cost advertising. For a small fee, your sponsorship will be seen by over 1000 Woodlands' parents, 500 parents from 12 local primary schools, every Coventry primary school Headteacher, our school Governors as well as all visitors to the school, and your company name, logo and contact details will be placed on our school website as a "Friend of the School".

If you would like to sponsor *The Woodlander*, then contact Julie Curtis on 02476 427674 or email [julie.curtis@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk](mailto:julie.curtis@woodlands.coventry.sch.uk) for more details.

## DIARY DATES

**Wednesday 21st July**  
**School breaks for**  
**Summer holiday 12.15 pm**

**Thursday 19th August**  
**Year 13 Exam Results (10am)**  
**Year 12 Exam Results (11am)**

**Tuesday 24th August**  
**Year 11 Exam Results (10am)**  
**Year 10 Exam Results (11am)**

**Wednesday 1st September**  
**Teacher Day**  
**Year 11 Enrolment (pm)**

**Thursday 2nd September**  
**Teacher Day**  
**Year 12 Induction at**  
**Coventry University (am)**

**Friday 3rd September**  
**Year 7 students only**

**Monday 6th September**  
**All students return to school**

**Wednesday 8th September**  
**School Photo Day**

**Wednesday 15th September**  
**Open Evening 5pm-7.30pm**

**Thursday 16th September**  
**Open Morning 9.30-11.00am**

## Your School Nurse

The school nurse is there to help you. The school nurse is the first person you may wish to speak to for confidential advice and information about your health. The work school nurses do is expanding and they now have two main roles:

- to give you confidential advice, care and treatment
- to look after and protect your physical and emotional health.

**What can I go and see the school nurse for?**  
You can go and see your school nurse for lots of different reasons.

**Need To Talk?**  
**SPEAK TO YOUR SCHOOL NURSE**

Reasons for visiting the school nurse:

- To refer you to somebody else who can help you e.g. a doctor
- If you have long-term health problems
- To talk about your health
- To de-stress and get emotional support e.g. if you have problems at home or with your friends
- To talk about your weight and healthy eating
- To receive information and leaflets e.g. on how to give up smoking or for information about sex
- To learn how to examine yourself e.g. for breast cancer or testicular cancer

**Where can I find out more?**  
For information and advice about being healthy and looking after yourself, talk to your school nurse or look at a copy of the 'What's Your Health?' leaflet. Your school nurse will have a copy of this leaflet, or you can download it from [www.healthyschools.gov.uk](http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk)

Healthy Schools [www.healthyschools.gov.uk](http://www.healthyschools.gov.uk)  
Healthy NEJ [www.primisb.org.uk](http://www.primisb.org.uk)