

Dear Parent/Carers,

Please take time to read of some of the events over the last two weeks. Across the school, children and young people, (and the staff team) are all working hard on their academic learning and also to develop their social understanding and skills.

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the team, Mrs Edwards, KS3 teacher, Mrs Barnes KS1 teacher, Mrs Avery a new pastoral support worker and valued teaching assistants; Miss Barkway, Mrs Atkins and Mrs Bradley and Miss Campbell and Miss Wendleken as Mid-day play leaders.

Next week is children's mental health week with a focus on 'Find Your Brave'! We will be encouraging our young people to think about what makes them feel brave. Bravery is different for everyone; sharing worries, asking for help, trying something new or pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. At Woodside Academy we will all be discussing and sharing what brave looks like for us and celebrating 'finding our brave'. The following week, it is Safer Internet Week and we will be sending home some more information in the next issue.

Have a good weekend.

Kathryn Freame

Confidence & Resilience Workshops

Last week, KS4 were involved in a workshop delivered by DWP (Department of Works and Pension). This was the first of many workshops that have been arranged. The focus on this workshop was confidence and resilience. Two essential skills that will be needed as our young people transition to their next stage of their education, be it into Post 16 or on to college. The young people displayed impeccable behaviour and enjoyed the activities – especially the team building activity where they were challenged to build a tower using marshmallows and spaghetti!



Secret Readers

Sunflower Class were lucky enough to have a surprise visit from some of our older children this week. They brought with them a lovely book about dinosaurs which they read beautifully to the children. You can see how much the children in Sunflower enjoyed the story!





KS4 Class Poem

During Creative English classes, KS4 students have been studying many different types of texts, including poetry. For remembrance week students were tasked with writing their own version of the WW1 war poem "Dulce et Decorum est" by Wilfred Owen. Students worked hard to portray the horrors of war and showed immense empathy in their writing. As a class group they then worked in collaboration choosing their favourite lines from each individual poem to create a class poem. These are the results.....

Creative Art

Our Class's version of the War Poem- Dulce et decorum est
Pro patria mori.

I am on the muddy battlefield and so hungry I cannot think straight,
I have chest complaints and I am so dirty. All around me is a muddy battlefield.
I haven't eaten in days. I miss my family. How much longer will this nightmare go on?
Thank God I getting out for a while.
I'm glad I'm walking away but I could die and I limp away, coughing as the bombs go off
around me
I feel like I won't survive, I have fleas. I see men covered in mud and blood, I am shell
shocked, shaking and flinching in fear

"Gas, Gas"

"Boy's put your gas masks on now"
I panic, I need my gas mask now
I cough and can't breathe
I am exhausted but I manage to find my gas mask in my kit
I have used up all my energy to make sure I am safe and the poison don't get into my
lungs
I get it on but I can't do it up, my friend helps me.
My legs feel like jelly and I cant stand straight.
My friend Freddie didn't make it. He couldn't get his mask on in time. Me and the boys
shouted at him "Put it on". He was so exhausted he didn't have the energy.
We all knew he would die, coughing to death.
Hopeless, helpless, I couldn't help him!! I will never forgive myself, I couldn't save him.

Reader if you believe the old lie

"It is sweet and right to die for one's country."

I say to you

"How would you feel if you saw your friends dead everytime you look behind you, in your
mind ? I feel sad, dead inside, upset and helpless."

If you feel the need to tell us how great it is to die for our country, I tell you "it is hell
and a shameful, dreadful way to die."

"It's hell

I will never forget the people who died in the war, they will always be in my heart."

By the Creative Art class



RSPB's Bird Watching Survey

Many thanks to all the parents who completed the RSPB's bird watching survey at home or in the local park last weekend. Some of our Woodside pupils have been watching birds in school this week as well. Poplar class saw; starlings, blackbirds, great tits, pied wagtails, crows, pigeons, seagulls and one parakeet when they completed their survey on Monday. The birds were happily using the homemade bird feeders the children made last term. The classes that took part enjoyed the project. Teachers have entered their data on the RSPB web site using an interactive online recording chart.



Big Garden Birdwatch 2020

In Maple class, we made our own birdfeeders using plastic bottles, sticks and string. We decorated them in natural colours so that they would appeal to birds. We hung our birdfeeders on the fence just outside our classroom so that we could keep a close eye on them. We filled them with a delicious seed mix, hoping to attract lots of birds. We all felt really pleased and excited when we spotted the occasional feathered visitor and we used the display in our classroom to help us work out which birds we saw. We saw mostly sparrows and blue tits. How exciting!



Diary Dates

10.2.2020 at 9am - Parents/carers **Coffee Morning "Trauma & Attachment"**

05.03.2020 – World Book Day

10.03.2020 – Full day '**Sensory Processing Workshop**' details to follow. Led by specialist occupational therapist.

17.3.2020 at 9am Parents/carers **Coffee Morning "Bexley Voice"**

01.04.2020 - Woodside Academy Parents evening - 3.30 - 6.00pm

02.04.2020 - Buttercup Class parent consultations - 1.00 - 2.30pm



All Together Achieving



At Woodside Academy, we value *trust*, *honesty* and *kindness* from all.



We *respect* ourselves and each other in all that we do.



We strive for *independence* in our learning and our leisure time to live safe and happy lives



We face challenges by being *positive* and believing that we can overcome them

All together better; all together we will *ACHIEVE* great things!

