

Newsletter

OCTOBER 2009



Woodkirk High Specialist Science School

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Dear Parents, Carers and Governors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you back to the new academic year. I am proud to report another record breaking performance in the public examinations. As you may have seen in the local press, 63% of our Year 11 students achieved a minimum of 5 A*-C grades **including** English and Mathematics, which is the highest achieved by a South Leeds school. Every student in the cohort was awarded at least one qualification and a staggering 99% achieved at least 5A*-G grades; evidence of our commitment to the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. This outstanding performance has led to record numbers entering the Sixth Form which now has well over 300 students and is one of the largest in Leeds. Achievement in the Sixth Form was also impressive, with a 95% pass rate leading to almost all students gaining places at their first choice university.

The new academic year always sees a change in staff and this year is no exception. Below is a list of the changes:

Internal appointments	
Mrs F Hunter	Head of Design Technology
Miss S Blight	SENCO (acting)
Mrs D Dudley	Attendance Officer
Mrs J Church	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs L Uttley	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Mrs C Trueman	Aim Higher Organiser
Mr T Wilson	KS3 Co-ordinator Design Technology

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New Starters

Mr M Grainger	Teacher of PHSRE – maternity cover
Ms F Kinchin	Social Sciences/Health & Social Care
Miss S Rodden	Mathematics – GCSE module Co-ordinator
Mr T Leroux	Teacher of Mathematics – one term
Mr T Reid	Mathematics – KS3 Co-ordinator
Miss H Shaw	Teacher of English
Miss A Denham	Teacher of English
Ms S Nicholson	Teacher of English
Miss K McHale	Head of Geography
Mr P Grooby	Teacher of Science
Miss J Ball	Teacher of Science
Mr W Smyth	Teacher of Science
Mr M Prothero	Teacher of Science – maternity cover
Mrs C Spinks	MFL- KS4 Co-ordinator
Mr A Sidebottom	Teacher of Design Technology – one year
Miss R Mburu	Teacher of Art and Design
Mr P Wilson	Teacher of Art and Design
Miss A Marwood	Teaching Assistant
Miss K Sellers	Teaching Assistant
Miss A Lucas	Teaching Assistant
Mrs N Springer	Cover Supervisor
Mr D Leach	Cover Supervisor
Mrs V Johnson	Cover Supervisor
Mr R Batley	Cover Supervisor – one term
Mr A Smith	Teacher of PE – maternity cover
Miss C Byers	Teacher of PE – maternity cover
Mr D Rungay	Science Technician – maternity cover
Mr D Rowe	ICT technician – until 31 January 2010

Leavers

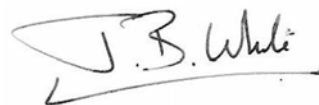
Mrs S Appleyard	SENCO
Mr J Calderwood	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss S Chadfield	Teacher of English
Miss S Chipperfield	Teacher of Science
Miss L Davidson	Teacher of Science
Miss A Halligan	Teacher of Science
Mrs D Horsman	Attendance Officer
Mrs D Marcus	Teacher of Mathematics
Miss S Mason	Teacher of Art and Design
Mrs D Milner	Teacher of MFL
Mr I Motara	Teacher of Mathematics
Mr A Palmer	Teacher of English
Miss L Roberts	Teacher of DT
Mr R Saunders	Head of Geography
Mrs E Smith	Teacher of MFL
Miss C Stead	Teacher of Social Sciences
Mr P Stokes	Head of Design Technology

Special mention must go to Mr Saunders, Mr Stokes, Mrs Smith, Mrs Appleyard, Mrs Marcus, Mrs Milner, Mrs Horsman and Mr and Mrs Leathley, who have all given decades of faithful service to the school and are now enjoying a well earned retirement.

As you are no doubt aware, Woodkirk has joined the list of only six Leeds schools in achieving the Leeds Healthy Schools status. One very important element of this is ensuring that all students enjoy a healthy diet. In view of the present economic climate we have **reduced** the price of the meal of the day by 10p to **£1.75**. This represents excellent value, especially as the standard of catering is so high, and as such, I would encourage as many as possible to take advantage of this arrangement. I would also recommend those who are eligible for free school meals to take up this entitlement. If you are in doubt as to whether or not you qualify, please ring Leeds Benefit Service on 0113 222 4404 or call into your nearest One Stop centre. If you live in the Kirklees area the telephone number is 01924 326004.

We are all looking forward to a very exciting year, which will see another quantum leap in achievement as the new personalised Key Stage 4 curriculum bears fruit. Year 8 students will be making the choices necessary to follow a three year Key Stage 4 and our curriculum pathways will be extended into the Sixth Form. The governors are carefully examining the pros and cons of Trust Status and are planning to consult with you on the project early in the New Year. We have two building projects in the pipe-line:- the conversion of the minibus garage into a Sixth Form facility and a purpose built construction suite which will mean our students will no longer have to travel to other sites to practise their practical skills.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents, carers, staff and governors for their continued support. Woodkirk is proud of its high standards of achievement, dress, behaviour and community involvement. This is due to the excellent relationships which exist between all who work so hard to provide the best possible learning environment for our young people.



J B White
Headteacher

COVER SUPERVISORS

You may be aware that there is a government initiative called 'Remodelling the School Workforce', which encourages schools to look at ways in which adults, other than teachers, can be deployed in the school situation to maximise effective use of teachers' time.

Recently we have begun to use Cover Supervisors to supervise children's learning on occasions when the teacher is ill or has to attend a meeting or course.

Cover Supervisors are joining an increasingly strong team of support staff whose role it is to support learning. The



work that they supervise is set by the absentee teacher.

Using Cover Supervisors helps to free teachers to allow them to focus on their key work of lesson planning, preparation and marking of work.

INCLUSION CHARTERMARK

At Woodkirk we are in the process of working towards the Inclusion Chartermark. This is an award that recognises that the school is providing equal opportunities for the education and well being of all pupils.

As a part of this process we are carrying out a self review which looks at the policies and procedures carried out at the school. Our procedures for developing strong links between parents, the school and local community have always been good. However, to improve it even more we would like parents to become involved with this process. You may be able to suggest ways of better communication with school, offer your time and skills to contribute to school clubs or fund-raise with the school.

Please contact Dr Toczek if you would like to contribute to a closer partnership between home and school. Thank you

STUDENT EQUALITY COMMISSION

We are currently developing a Student Equality Commission made up of and run by students from all year groups. The basic purpose of the Commission will be to promote and raise awareness of equality issues throughout school. If anyone is interested in being part of the Commission (excellent for references!) please find Ms Redmond (room R6) or Mr Zwalf (room B12) as soon as possible.



KEY STAGE 3 RESULTS



KEY STAGE 3 TEACHER ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The following table shows the percentage of Year 9 pupils achieving each national curriculum level at Woodkirk High Specialist Science School in 2009. All results are based on teacher assessment. The results for English are not included as they were assessed in 2008.

Figures may not total 100% due to rounding

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
ART	0%	0%	11%	60%	25%	4%	0%
DT	0%	0%	15%	57%	25%	2%	0%
FRENCH	2%	8%	12%	53%	19%	4%	0%
GEOGRAPHY	0%	1%	12%	26%	45%	14%	0%
GERMAN	0%	2%	10%	47%	35%	5%	0%
HISTORY	0%	0%	9%	33%	37%	19%	1%
ICT	0%	0%	11%	60%	28%	0%	0%
MATHEMATICS	0%	0%	9%	14%	33%	31%	12%
MUSIC	0%	0%	14%	46%	38%	1%	0%
PE	0%	0%	9%	53%	30%	6%	1%
RE	0%	1%	23%	46%	24%	5%	0%
SCIENCE	0%	1%	16%	32%	38%	13%	0%

PARENTS' EVENINGS 2009/2010



YEAR GROUP	DATE	TIME
Year 7	Monday 10 th December 2009	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 8	Thursday 11 th February 2010	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 9	Wednesday 25 th November 2009	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 10	Wednesday 21 st April 2010	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 11	Thursday 14 th January 2010	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 12	Thursday 11 th March 2010	4.30pm – 7.30pm
Year 13	Tuesday 5 th January 2010	4.30pm – 7.30pm

Students need to make their own appointments with their subject teachers. The appointment times are written in the child's planner (page 44). Parents are asked to make a note of the allotted appointment times and to bring the planner with them on the evening.

Please would all Parents/Carers be aware that Parents' Evenings take place in the Green Block. Follow the signs directing you to the back of the school where parking is available.

REVIEW DAY

Review Day for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will take place on
THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2010

Would parents please note that students must attend Review Day at their appointed time, in full school uniform and, whenever possible, accompanied by parents/carers. Appointments will be issued as early as possible to ensure parents can also make the necessary arrangements to attend. Thank you.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009 TO 2010

HOLIDAY	SCHOOLS CLOSE	SCHOOLS OPEN
Summer	---	Thursday 3 September 2009
Autumn mid-term	Friday 23 October 2009	Monday 2 November 2009
Christmas	Friday 18 December 2009	Monday 4 January 2010
Spring mid-term	Friday 12 February 2010	Monday 22 February 2010
Easter	Thursday 1 April 2010	Monday 19 April 2010
May Bank Holiday	Friday 30 April 2010	Tuesday 4 May 2010
Summer mid-term	Friday 28 May 2010	Monday 7 June 2010
Summer	Friday 23 July 2010	---

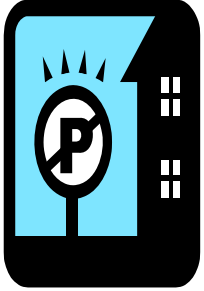
Training Days

Thursday	3rd September 2009	Wednesday	3rd February 2010
Friday	23rd October 2009	Thursday	22nd April 2010
		Friday	23rd July 2010

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010 TO 2011

SCHOOL CALENDAR ACADEMIC YEAR 2010-2011	SCHOOLS CLOSE	SCHOOLS OPEN
Summer break		Wednesday 1 September 2010
Autumn mid-term	Friday 22 October 2010	Monday 1 November 2010
Christmas break	Friday 17 December 2010	Tuesday 4 January 2011
Spring mid-term	Friday 18 February 2011	Monday 28 February 2011
Easter break	Friday 1 April 2011	Monday 18 April 2011
Easter weekend	Thursday 21 April 2011	Tuesday 26 April 2011
May Bank Holiday	Friday 29 April 2011	Tuesday 3 May 2011
Summer mid-term	Friday 27 May 2011	Monday 6 June 2011
Summer break	Monday 25 July 2011	

PARKING!



Major problems have been experienced with parents trying to drive in and out of the school at the end of the day. This practice creates a serious health and safety risk, as does using the bus bay as a 'pick-up' point at the end of school. We have also received a complaint from Arriva Bus Company of the danger posed to students on Rein Road and the bus drivers trying to negotiate their way in and out of school due to parents ignoring the rule of parking on the **SCHOOL SIDE ONLY** on Rein Road. The police have been informed of this concern. May I remind parents of the following simple rules:

- Please park **ONLY** on the **school side** of Rein Road.
- **DO NOT PARK** in the bus bay. Buses must have easy access in and out at all times.
- **DO NOT DRIVE** up or down the drive between 2.50pm and 3.10pm Monday to Thursday and 1.50pm to 2.10pm on Friday. Children's safety is paramount. Parents may park in the middle play area/visitors' car park, arriving before 2.50pm until 3.10pm (Monday to Thursday) and 1.50pm until 2.10pm (Friday) when they may leave. **PLEASE** drive carefully through the bus bay.

THANK YOU

PHYSICAL EDUCATION PE TARGET BOOKLETS



Due to a large amount of pupils forgetting or losing their PE booklets last year we have had to apply a charge to replace lost booklets. Each pupil in KS3 will receive a booklet at the start of the year and they will be required to bring it to all PE lessons.

A 50p fee will be charged to those pupils who lose their booklets and a de-credit will be issued if the booklet is not brought to the lesson.

We hope that these measures will reduce the disruption caused in lessons and improve pupil progress.

CONTACT DETAILS



As per the School Guide, Parents/Carers should inform the school, in writing, of any change to their address, mobile or landline telephone number and/or the main home email address. It is very important that our records are up-to-date. Thank you

SPONSORED WALK

The walk on Tuesday 29th September was a tremendous fun day and we thank all our students for taking part in this Fund-Raising Event. All the money raised will go towards improving our resources in the school. This year we are asking our Student Council to consider ideas for how the money is spent. We ask all parents/carers to encourage their children to hand all the money in by **Monday 9th November** or, hopefully, much sooner. We will let you know in the next Newsletter the total amount we have raised and on what it will be spent.



G. Thornton, Fund-Raiser

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE - GUEST SPEAKERS

Do you work in Health and/or Social Care and would you be willing to talk to Health and Social Care students about your role?



We have approximately 40 students who are studying for careers in the Health and Care Services who would be delighted if you could come and speak to them to give them some insight about the work that is involved when caring for people.

If you are prepared to give up some time, or maybe one of your colleagues would like to come into school and talk to the students, please contact Mrs A-M Bene-Doszpoly.

WOODKIRK'S GOT TALENT



Woodkirk's Got Talent will take place in the School Hall on Friday 20th November at 7.00pm. This annual talent show, organised by students to raise money for Children in Need, features a mixture of acts, which usually include singing, dancing, poetry, comedy, dancing and much, much more.

An event not to be missed!

Tickets will be available after half term from the Music Department.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas Concert will take place this year on Tuesday, 15th December at St Paul's Church in Morley.

The Music Department presents music from each of the extra curricular activities which run after school to celebrate Christmas.

Tickets will be on sale after half term from the Music Department



LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRE

The LRC is always busy with students who use the facilities in their own time, both during and out of school hours. As we can accommodate up to 200 students at any one time, we really feel we are serving the whole school community.

This term there are a number of extra-curricular events and activities which have received a great deal of interest already.

(Carole Unett. Librarian)

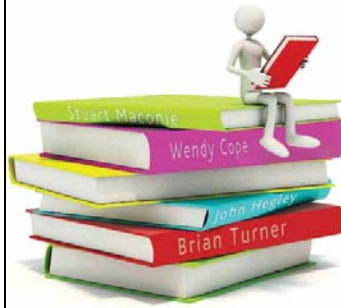
In September Year 7 students could once again choose a free book from the "BOOKED UP" scheme. This is a great way to start their time at Woodkirk and really encourages them to carry on reading for pleasure.



They could choose from an excellent and varied list which was shortlisted from a long list of 180 books!

All the orders are now in and books will arrive in November.

www.bookedup.org.uk



Special thanks must go to the organisers of **Morley Literature Festival** who have enabled our students to meet some really interesting authors and illustrators

DEREK LANDY. Author of the "Skulduggery Pleasant" series and winner of the Red House Children's and Leeds Book Awards. Students will see him at Morley Town Hall.

ROMMI SMITH, Parliamentary Writer in Residence, will work with GCSE RE students on her "Peace Heroes and Sheroes" writing workshop.

JOHN BYRNE, Cartoonist from Private Eye and Nickelodeon will work with our art students.

Some of our Sixth Form students will be acting as stewards at 2 events and receive free tickets.

More details at www.morleyliteraturefestival.com

LUCY CHRISTOPHER, an exciting new writer will also visit to talk about "STOLEN". This has received glowing reviews and is a book lots of adults seem to enjoy. Perhaps you'd like to try it for yourself.



BOOK FAIR 5-9 OCTOBER

Once again lots of great books, stationery, posters etc for sale. Lots of students enjoying books and earning free books for the school. Big thanks should go to those parents giving "extra pocket money" during this week, and also to our student helpers without whom this fair could not take place – they give up their free time for a whole week!

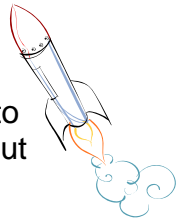


Science

SPECIALIST SCIENCE SCHOOL NEWS

Did you know that Woodkirk is a “Leading Space Education” school? Last year we successfully bid to become one of only 30 schools in the country chosen for Leading Space status. This means that we use the context of space to inspire and engage students across the curriculum. We also advise and support local schools to develop the use of space with their pupils.

Space-based activities last year included a “Moon rocks and Rocketry” evening for parents and carers; space themed lessons in English and History; a “Dragon’s Den” event where students from 8 local schools presented ideas to a panel of experts; visits to a local observatory and rocket-building workshops with local primary schools, to name but a few.



August also saw the first set of results from our GCSE Astronomy classes. We had a 100% pass rate, with 56% of students achieving a grade C or above – an impressive effort for a whole GCSE studied in only one term!



Also, many thanks to Mr Mark Moore who generously donated two telescopes for use in school. If you have any astronomy equipment that you no longer have a use for please contact the Science Department – our students may be able to use it!

We hope to further develop the space theme into next year, building on successful events and hosting new ones, so watch this space for more information.

“One small step...” competition results

During the summer term, many students entered a competition to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Apollo moon landings. Students were to suggest what their first words would be if they were to walk on the moon, with the chance to meet an astronaut as the prize. We received many splendid and imaginative entries, and finally decided on the following two winners:



“It took 1000 men on computers to get us here, but the journey begins now” – Jonathan Chadwick, Year 10

“In my hands I hold all that is and all that will be” – Daniel Mortimer, Year 10

Congratulations to Jonathan and Daniel, who each win a pair of tickets to meet Ed Mitchell of Apollo 14 next April.

Science Clubs

Just a reminder about the opportunities for students to try some different practical activities after school.

1. There is exciting/messy/fun science on Tuesdays at 3pm in science club in Y36.
2. On Wednesdays the environmentally friendly can try organic gardening in our raised beds or help to maintain the eco-garden to benefit wildlife. Go along to Y38 to join in.
3. What about broadcasting? Groups of students produce radio shows from our own radio studio. The radio club meets in Y36 on Thursdays. If you go along you will be fully trained in how to produce and air a show. You can share your favourite music and your opinions with Woodkirk and the world!



Woodkirk High Specialist Science School
Rein Road
Tingley
Wakefield
WF3 1JQ

Tel: 0113 3368140

Fax: 0113 2526456

e.mail: headteacher@woodkirk.leeds.sch.uk

website: www.woodkirkhigh.co.uk

OFFICE OPENING TIMES (TERM TIME)

Please note that the school office opens as follows

8.30am-4.30pm	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8.30am-4.00pm	Friday

All enquiries should be directed during these times.

Thank you