



A note from the Headteacher...

The last two weeks of the Autumn term are always very active and this year has been no exception. Last week we were able to reward our top performers with an ice skating trip. On Friday we had Christmas Jumper Day and our Nurture Christmas Coffee Morning, which was popular as ever. Of course, there was also the 'double-header' pairing of events: the Barclay's community event took place in the morning, through which we were able to sell Christmas gifts made by our Achievement for All pupils and Miss Williams was able to showcase our choir's carol singing to the shoppers in the Kingfisher Centre; the afternoon brought with it our Christmas Fair and there was a great blend of games to play and purchases to be made. I would like to thank all involved in these events, particularly the 'logistics crew' of Mr Schofield and Mr Coward. I would also like to thank all the family and friends who supported the events and helped raise money for the academy.

Our Year 7 Malvern residential has been taking place this week and we are receiving lots of updates and praise for our pupils. Please feel free to check out the photographs of their activities on our Facebook page! On Wednesday Year 8 took part in the Faraday Challenge, testing their skills and ingenuity to solve a unique set of STEM problems. Thursday brought with it a focused SME day, honing in on the spirit of Christmas and bringing a spiritual calm to the excitement pupils are experiencing in the run up to the holiday. Finally, of course, we have been able to round the term off with some fantastic celebratory assemblies and activities to mark the season.

So, having worked through an incredibly busy, yet rewarding fortnight, all that remains is to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope that everyone is able to spend the next couple of weeks in

the company of loved ones and that you all enjoy a restful and peaceful break.

S Bond

Attendance

Attendance is very important to ensure pupils reach their full potential and is something that Woodfield monitors very closely.

Attendance for the week 10/12/18 – 14/12/18

Year 5 – 94.3% Year 6 – 94.2%

Year 7 – 92.5% Year 8 – 92.6%

Whole School – 93.4%

Whole School Target – 95%

Congratulations to 7SS who achieved 99.1% the highest attendance last week and won a Freddo on Friday.

Positives

Just over 11,000 Positives were with Year 7 being the top performing year group with 3,579 Positives.

Top groups:

5CB – 626 Positives

6SB – 564 Positives

7SS – 888 Positives

8JB – 926 Positives

Important Dates

December 2018

21st Dec – Autumn Term ends

24th Dec-7th Jan 2019: Holiday

January 2019

8th Jan – Back to School

23rd Jan – SAT Parents meeting 6pm Hall

31st Jan – Arts Evening 6pm Hall



February 2019

4th-6th Feb – Yr.5 Manor Adventure

6th Feb – Parent Meetings with subject teachers 4pm Hall

11th Feb – Parent Meetings with subject teachers 5pm Hall

18th-22nd Feb – Spring Half Term

25th Feb – Back to school

27 Feb – Yr.6 NCMP (height and weight measuring)

No Drop

Offs!

This is a further request that parents/carers in cars **DO NOT use the school drive to drop-off and pick-up pupils**. We have had a number of near-misses on the drive and on the main road, our emergency services access has been blocked and there has been damage caused to parked cars. We request once again: **please park on the roadside** and allow your children to walk the last few metres into the building.



Chicken Pox and Shingles

If your child has chicken pox or shingles, please notify the school office as soon as possible. These illnesses are extremely contagious and can be dangerous to those who are pregnant or on certain types of medication. Thank you.

PUPIL ABSENCE

Please let us know by ParentMail, e-mail or voicemail if your child is absent from school. A note for absence upon return to school is **REQUIRED**. A reason in your child's planner is acceptable.

When contacting the school to leave a message on the pupil absence line please ensure you speak clearly, and the message should include your name, pupil's name, class and the reason for their absence. Thank you.

Childcare Choices

Are you aware that you can receive tax free childcare? If you would like to find out more visit Childcare Choices website www.childcarechoices.gov.uk/providers.

School Uniform

A reminder to parents that pupils should not be wearing nose or eyebrow piercings to school, our policy states to wear no more than a watch and one pair of stud earrings.



Year 7 trip to the Sea Life Centre

On Friday 7th December Year 7 pupils had the amazing opportunity to visit the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham. The pupils visited the 4D cinema and took a stroll through the tunnel getting to see some sharks and turtles. Pupils had the opportunity to get up close with a starfish and a crab at the rock pools. Everyone had the chance to see at least one of the animals being fed and listen to the very funny and informative talks from the keepers. As an extra challenge the pupils had the opportunity to do some hunting to find stamps and win a medal! Unfortunately we ran out of time and didn't get to see much of Santa but he did wave as we went by. The pupils were a credit to the school as always and they learned a lot whilst having a great time.



Year 5 Girls Football League



The Year 5 girl's football team have had a fabulous start in representing the school in Monday night league games held at Woodfield Academy. They have ended the first half of the season on 6 points with 2 wins and 1 loss and sit just behind Walkwood Middle School in second place in the table. We look forward to see how the girls do after Christmas. Next Game: Monday 21st January vs Walkwood.

Barclays Event

Last Friday 14th December, some of our pupils took part in the Barclays Charity Event in Redditch Town Centre. It was an enjoyable morning and all sang beautifully.

JASS News

The JASS silver pupils took part in a martial arts session two weeks ago. It was very well received by all pupils and we had lots of positive comments from our instructor Chris about the pupils he worked with over the course of the day. This activity contributes to their 'Get Active, Stay Active' hours for JASS, meaning that pupils should hit their 2 hour target before Christmas with ease.

We are now looking to start up a martial arts afterschool club with Chris in the New Year!

Reward and AFA Ice

Skating trip

On Wednesday 12th December we took 42 pupils to Webbs of Wychbold to take to the ice. This reward was for the top 26 pupils (13 from each Key Stage) who had achieved the highest amount of Positives this term and they were joined by 16 'A for A' pupils, who were offered this trip as their end of term treat! Everyone had a fabulous time skating around the rink and stayed on their feet for most of the time, in fact, we have some very good skaters amongst us! It was a pleasure to take these pupils and everyone got into the festive spirit. Well done to everyone who has been a Top Positive Winner this term. Miss Doidge, Mrs Dean, Mrs Butler & Miss Gorton.





Faraday Challenge

On Wednesday 19th December, a group of Year 8 students were very lucky to take part in the IET Faraday Challenge day, which was held on site at Woodfield Academy. The IET is one of the world's leading professional societies for the engineering and technology community. The Faraday Challenge days give students the opportunity to research, design and make solutions to genuinely tough engineering problems. The event was set up and run by a representative from the IET and supported by two representatives from 'Arconic', who sponsored the event. The day proved to be very challenging and for this reason, some students unfortunately decided not to take part at the last minute. Whilst this was very disappointing, the majority of students remained and showed a great deal of determination and resilience. The leading tutor, Keira, praised the remaining students for their ability to test and adapt ideas and for continuing to solve problems with their products. Keira spoke of the skills needed to be an engineer and saw many of these attributes in students from our school.

Students were marked thoroughly on many factors including their planning, development of ideas, finances, designs, problem solving, and team work and for the quality of their final presentations. All groups made working models using various components such as battery cells, motors, LEDs, solar panels etc. Each team assigned roles to its members (project manager, accountant, product developers etc.) and ensured they worked well with each other to get the job done. It was wonderful to see the progression of all students. They all seemed to take so much from the event and thoroughly enjoyed it. Many of them commented on how challenging the day was but how much they enjoyed the experience. They felt really proud in overcoming obstacles and achieving so much in one day. One student commented "It was a challenge

because it made you think about things you wouldn't normally think of in a normal school day".

The winning team received a £10 amazon voucher each and the school have received a beautiful glass trophy for our awards cabinet. The scores will be kept in IET's national database and the top scoring schools will be invited to a further challenge at the end of the academic year. Fingers crossed that our winning team will be joining the next phase of the competition.

Miss Lawrence was very proud of all of the students who stuck it out until the end of the day. They were fantastic representatives for the school and were an inspiration to watch.



Year 7 trip Malvern

The Year 7 annual residential trip to Malvern Outdoor Elements Centre took place this week. Staff very pleasingly commented that our pupils were some of the most polite children that they have had at the Centre for a while. Lots of activities took place over the course of the week including high bridges, king swing, low ropes, zip wire and the pupils completed a ten mile hike over the Malvern hills. Lots of fears were conquered and great success was achieved with the challenges they faced.