



Woking High School



Principal's Letter

As I write, we are in the midst of freezing temperatures and snowfalls; summer seems a very distant memory! However, during August our cohort of 2010 achieved some excellent GCSE results with 75% of the year group gaining at least five A*-C grades. Particularly of note was the fact that 75% gained English A*-C and 67% gained A*-C grades in Mathematics. All GCSE qualifications in all subjects are important, but none more so than English and Mathematics, as they are the "gold standard" for entry to further and higher education and employment. Our congratulations and best wishes go to all of our 2010 leavers. We would also like to recognize the achievements of students in the present Year 10 & 11 who have already gained a GCSE in Humanities and other positive modular results.

Our Year 11 students are currently sitting mock examinations. They are well aware of the need to use this time wisely and practice their revision skills and examination techniques. On their return to school in January, all Year 11 students will participate in the second of our 'Performance Conferences' setting targets for the summer and writing action plans to make best use of the remaining months before GCSE examinations. Students will receive their results on 11 January in a special assembly that will replicate the formality of results day next summer.

I wish to draw your attention to a few highlights from many of the events, activities and

celebrations of success, that have characterised the 2010 autumn term. I also commend to you a fascinating and detailed account of the past few months in this edition of our newsletter.

Woking High School students are renowned for their outstanding charity work and this term has been no exception. The first weeks of September saw collections of basic supplies to assist the flood victims in Pakistan. Since then, funds have been raised for World Aids Day, Jeans for Genes, Guide Dogs for the Blind (see Mr Dyer's Charity report). The Remembrance Concert (see Mr Goodwin's report) held a collection for the Poppy Appeal and our Year 7s gave an outstanding response to Operation Christmas Child preparing over 70 boxes for children in the Ukraine. My annual Christmas assembly collections go towards providing support for communities across the world via Oxfam Unwrapped. To date, these Woking High School Christmas presents have funded a donkey in 2006, 3 goats in 2007, a camel in 2008, 2 sheep and a calf in 2009 and this year's gift – a cow, cow shelter and veterinary care. Woking High School is proud of its care for others, both at home and abroad, especially in these more difficult times.

The vibrant and varied curricular and extra curricular activities on offer at Woking High School, give every student the opportunity to succeed individually, in teams, in a year group or as a school. Individual students are also



Woking High School
A SPECIALIST TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE
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Winter 2010 Newsletter

Principal's Letter Governors

Fund Raising Celebration

supported by Woking High School in their out of school activities and we send our congratulations to all who have gained recent local, county and even national success (See PE report).

Thank you to all parents who support the school in so many ways – encouraging outstanding attendance (see later article), helping support our uniform policy, joining working parties, attending parents' evenings and presentations (all of which are available to be viewed on our website), helping at sports and music events, sending donations to FWHS and joining the Prize Club (see later article), hosting exchange students and writing letters of thanks and suggestions for further improvement. As we so often say, the more we work together in partnership, the greater the success and achievements of our young people will be.

We are all looking forward to the Christmas events taking

place in the last few weeks of term and extend a warm invitation to both the combined Horsell Schools Carol Concert on Monday 13 December at 7 p.m. in St. Mary's Church, Horsell and to the Woking High School Christmas Concert "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" on Wednesday 15 December at 7 p.m. in the School Hall. Students and staff are eagerly anticipating our annual Christmas lunch on 15 December which is always so beautifully prepared by our excellent restaurant staff team.

Woking High School finishes the autumn term on Tuesday 21 December at 12 noon and begins the spring term on Wednesday 5 January 2011.

All at Woking High School send their best wishes to every member of the Woking High School family for a joyful and peaceful Christmas time.

J Abbott, Principal

GOVERNORS NEWS

As you will know from Mrs Abbott's weekly blogs our school continues to progress well. As governors, we are watching carefully developments with education both nationally and within Surrey and responding as necessary.

There have been some changes of governors in the summer when we said goodbye to Rob Payne, Mr Heaton and Mrs Coulson. We are most grateful to them all for their considerable contributions to the school and the work of the governing body. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Moulding and Mr Tuson as newly elected staff governors. We were also delighted to welcome Gail Bromley MBE as an associate member of the governors. Until recently Gail had served as chair of governors at Horsell Village School. Zamir Tehal has been appointed as a parent governor and has succeeded Amanda Jackson as Vice Chair - I have much appreciated Amanda's support and look forward to working with Zamir.

There is currently a vacancy for a parent governor and there will be an election early in the New Year to fill it. Please consider supporting our school in this or indeed in other ways. The support of parents is vital both to the school and to children's education.

If you would like to speak to someone about what it is like to be a parent governor please contact Marina Dieck via the School. She will be happy to speak to you.

R Wernham, Chair of Governors

Restrictive Physical Intervention Policy

Governors have recently approved and adopted a revised policy that outlines the procedures for occasions when physical intervention may be used with students in school. There may be situations when it becomes necessary to safeguard an individual student or group of students through physical restraint. The Woking High School Policy was written using the model proposed by the Local Authority. If any parent or carer wishes to view a copy of the policy, please contact the school office.

E Kyriacou, Vice Principal



40 Years Celebration

For over 40 years there has been a secondary school on the Morton Road site, originally named Horsell Secondary School, then Horsell High School and now Woking High School. In October the school hosted a ceremony to mark this 40th birthday. We were delighted that the first Deputy Head at the school, Mrs Pauline Powell, was able to join members of staff and students along with the first Chair

of Governors, Mr Michael Gammon, the current Chair of Governors, Dr Roy Wernham and ex Chair of Governors, Mr Paul Blagbrough, for the event. Mrs Powell planted a tree in our Sensory Garden and unveiled a plaque "Woking High School – To mark the 40th anniversary of the provision of high quality education by schools on this site 1970-2010". Our visitors thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and also were able to tour the school noting the many improvements that have been made over the years.

J Abbott, Principal

Fund Raising & Charity Funding for 2010/11

Students have chosen, via the School Council, to support the following charities this academic year:

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Cancer Research and LEPROA (Leprosy Relief Association),

Commando 999 and Woking Hospice.

In addition the School Council recommended that the following appeals be supported:

Wear it Pink

Pakistan Flood Appeal (over 40 boxes of food & drink and over £400 of medication were sent)

Help 4 Heroes

Cystic Fibrosis

A range of activities, special multi-days and fund raising initiatives will once again raise thousands of pounds this year to support the chosen charities. Students and staff are currently busy supporting the Samaritans Purse and Lions Christmas Appeals by filling shoeboxes, providing parcels of food and presents for less fortunate families in the Woking area.

A Dyer, Vice Principal

Technology Re-designation Fund

Following our re-designation as a specialist Technology school in May, we commenced a fund raising programme to reach a £25,000 target. At the time we anticipated that this would be matched by government funding. Many of you will know that the current government withdrew this facility across the country. We had already received donations from Proctor and Gamble, Friends of Woking High and individual parents who have agreed to honour their support. In a bid to

improve our Technology facilities and upgrade them so that we are equipped to provide our students with the practical environment required to study current and new courses e.g. Engineering, we are still seeking additional sponsors. If you are able to support us in any way, as an individual or through your employment then please contact Mrs Kyriacou on 01483 888450 or at ekyriacou@wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk.

E Kyriacou, Vice Principal

INTERNET SAFETY

Young people spend study and leisure time on-line and as technology changes so quickly it is often difficult for parents and carers to keep up. Childnet International has produced a guide to help adults ensure that young people get the best out of downloading, sharing music, films and TV programmes in a safe and legal way. As parents you will want to make sure you know what your children are doing on the computer and this informative guide will help you with this. Free copies are available from parents@pro-music.org and the content is also available online at www.childnet.com/downloading.

E Kyriacou, Vice Principal

COMMUNITY NEWS

Japanese Visit

Once again this term, at the beginning of October, we welcomed two students from our partner school in Tokyo - the Mey Sen High School. Since 1999 we have been able to offer placements for students to spend a week in Woking High School shadowing our students. This year the two Japanese girls were able to follow a Year 10 timetable and they thoroughly enjoyed this experience. On their last day there was the usual exchange of presents which delighted both hosts and visitors.

E Kyriacou, Vice Principal



EXQUISITE

Movember

LUXURY

Throughout November, several members of staff have been supporting The Prostate Cancer Charity (TPCC) by sporting moustaches. "The Mo", slang for moustache and November, come together each year to form "Movember". It has proved to be a challenging month as there have been interesting meetings with parents and visitors to the school, heated discussions with wives and girlfriends and amusing comments from students. Unfortunately, we lost some colleagues along

the way, due to worries about photographs, pressure from families or simply forgetting and automatically shaving. So far over £250 has been collected, thanks to the kind donations of staff, students, friends and family. If anyone wishes to make a donation to the cause then please visit: <http://uk.movemberfoundation.com/>. Thank you

M Jones – M Scott – M Askem – O Brown



The Sensory Garden Woking Schools Confederation

Prefects Visit to High Ashurst

The Sensory Garden has continued to grow and develop over the past year. Many vegetables and soft fruits were grown in the summer, tended carefully by the Garden Prefects, and harvested on our return to school. There was a hotly contended house competition for Year 7 students to grow the tallest sunflower; results were close, but the winners were Curie with a massive 3.6m giant sunflower. The Garden Prefects and keen gardeners from years 7, 8 and 9 spent a Day 11 in September working hard preparing the garden for the coming winter. They pruned, harvested, cleared away old plants, replanted beds, and mulched all the flower beds with cocoa shells. Many bulbs have been planted ready for spring; thanks go to the D & T department for raising money to buy the bulbs through their cake sale. Thank you also to all parents and staff who have collected and sent in the Morrison's "Lets Grow" vouchers, which will be used to buy more equipment for the garden. Finally, a Cherry tree was planted in a ceremony in October to commemorate Woking High School's 40th anniversary.

H Gallagher, Science

The Sensory Garden



Woking Schools Confederation – Student Voice

On Monday 22 November, 4 Year 11 Woking High School students, together with students from Winston Churchill, visited Parkview Community Centre, Sheerwater, where we took part in the 4th Woking Schools Confederation student voice event. The theme was about being eco-friendly and we were set the task of explaining and helping a large group of children from the local primary schools. Head Boy, Andrew Davey, led the morning, which began with feedback on what the primary schools have done since the last event. The focus then moved on towards designing an eco-friendly Olympic Stadium; with students taking their designs back to their schools to make a model of their stadium.

During this time, we walked around and visited each group and asked about their designs and gave advice and ideas. Half way through the activity we gathered up each

group and gave them a selection of drinks and snacks, this gave the children a small break from the planning.

When the groups had finished two members of our group, Andrew Davey and Katherine Robbins, finished the session by asking each group to give a small explanation of their design.

The next student voice event will take place in March at The Winston Churchill School, again led by the secondary school students. Here students will be able to bring in their completed stadiums for members of the Woking Rotary Club to judge the best design! The theme on The Olympics, will have lots of practical activities.

Laura Maderia IID



Prefects Visit to High Ashurst



On Friday 24 September, Year 11 prefects went on an exciting visit to the outdoor activities centre High Ashurst. We all arrived at school earlier than usual, prepared with our waterproofs, enthusiastic for the day ahead. We arrived at High Ashurst at 10a.m. to be met by the centre's friendly staff and were split into two groups. Group 1 were to 'have a go' at the high ropes in the morning, whilst Group 2 were to do some team building at the assault course.

Once we had organised ourselves into teams and been kitted out with red hard hats, we began our first challenge. This included eight of us standing on a slim wooden beam and the attempting to organise ourselves into alphabetical order of our first names, this not only put our balance and agility to the test but also our communication skills. A second challenge that we attempted, involved having to swing individually using a Tarzan rope onto a very small platform a couple of metres away. It was very hard trying to keep all eight on the tiny platform without falling off however we were very happy with ourselves when we finally managed it! After a couple of hours spent tackling the stimulating assault course, we went to lunch.

After re-energising, the groups swapped over and our group made our way over to the very high, high ropes! First of all was the Leap of Faith. This required three of us to climb a ladder up to a very, very high platform, whilst the rest of the group were in control of tightening the ropes on their harnesses as they climbed. Once we got to the top, we were counted down as we leapt to catch the trapeze. It was really scary and nerve-racking standing on the platform but when you leapt and caught the trapeze

it was so exhilarating. Next we went to our final activity, Crate Stacking. This involved four of us standing on top of four crates whilst the rest of the group either tightened their ropes or stacked the crates higher making a tower. As the tower became taller it became more and more unstable until it clattered to the ground!

Finally after an incredibly fun and active day we handed back our harnesses and helmets and boarded the coach back to school. The day had really tested our thinking skills, but most importantly our team skills. We had to always help, support and ultimately trust each other. It was certainly a very memorable day. We're all very grateful to the teachers that gave up their time to take us and then stand in the cold rain whilst we enjoyed ourselves! Thank you.

Amy Rendall, 11Y



Science

Once again the Science department have had a busy and successful term. Year 10 students have sat their first two GCSE modules and were truly dedicated to their studies with excellent attendance at after school revision classes. We are sure their hard work will be rewarded when the results are published.

On the 4 November, twenty six Triple Science students attended a virtual autopsy at the Light Box in Woking. They learned all about the work of pathologists and found out that their work is not quite the same as it is portrayed on TV. They were able to handle a number of pieces of specialist equipment including rib shears, bowel scissors and a chisel for opening up skulls! The event was enjoyed by all who attended and gave the students a good insight to an exciting career opportunity that could await them.

B Spinks, Head of Science



STEM

This year represents an exciting time for Woking High School with the launch of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Club (STEM). The introduction of this club will aim to meet the government's agenda to enhance the importance of pursuing these subjects at a higher level and strengthen the link between each individual subject.

In recognition of this, Woking High School will be entering the Green Power Challenge. This will create an opportunity for a group of students to design, build and race an electric powered car against other schools at race tracks around the country. Students will be chosen as a result of an internal competition open to all in Years 7-10.

In conjunction with this, we have made the provision for students to complete nationally recognised CREST Science awards after school. This will create opportunities for students to enhance and differentiate their Curriculum Vitae, allowing them the greatest chance of success in our current economic climate.

If you are interested in taking part, see Mr Wood (Science Department) for further details. Look out for more STEM enrichment activities due to be released later this year.

J Wood, Science



Courtesy of Flickr: Kaet 44

Trinity College

In July 2010, 16 of our Year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Trinity College, Cambridge. Dr Wernham, Chair of Governors, arranged for the students to have a tour of the college, to hear an insider's view of university life from both an undergraduate and postgraduate student, to tour the college library, and to experience lunch in college

hall. The visit coincided happily with an open day at Cambridge University, so the students were also able to take a look at other colleges, collect prospectuses, and see some typical accommodation. It was a very enjoyable day for all, raising aspirations amongst our students whilst enjoying some delicious ice-creams outside Kings College.

H Gallagher, Science

TECHNOLOGY

On Monday 22 November, Year 9 Technology students experienced traditional Indian cookery. We were lucky to have the technical skills of Mrs Venkatesh (parent) and Mrs Ramesh. Students watched our visitors cook a paneer curry, vegetable rice and homemade chapatti. Inspired by their 'Food of the World' project, students then produced their own curries. The Food Technology kitchen was filled with the aroma of exotic spices and the sound of enthusiastic students.

L Maley, Design & Technology





Day 11 Art Workshop

Inspired by the work of the Japanese artist, Katsushika Hokusai, we worked collaboratively to produce a panel to be hung in the school restaurant based on the theme 'Art from different cultures'. It was an excellent day working large scale to produce a piece of work for lots of people to see.

Benjamin Marrant, Harley Evans, Connor Pink, Daniel Williams and Connor Mitchell.

Maths News

Statistics

Congratulations to the ten Year 11 students who took their Statistics GCSE exam a year early. Everyone achieved a Grade C and above with 50% getting an A or A. Special congratulations go to Ishani Mehrotra, Robert Eyers and Tom Andrews who all achieved an A*. Statistics GCSE has started for Year 10 this year. The lessons take place on Wednesday 3.30 – 4.30 in F12. The exam will be in June 2011.*

Year 10 Exams

Year 10 took their first unit Maths exam in November. They have worked very hard and we are hoping for some super results in January. We are now working towards the Number and Algebra unit which will be examined in June 2011. Both top sets are now working towards their Linked Pair pilot GCSE, the first part of which will be examined in June 2011.

ENGLISH

Litterae Optimae is Woking High School's exciting new magazine of excellent writing. It is principally a showcase for the talents of our very able Key Stage 4 students but submissions from all students will also be considered for inclusion.

The inaugural edition came out in November and was received with deserved acclaim. A copy of it can be seen in the News section on the Woking High School website at <http://www.wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk>. Please do take the time to read through it; we are sure you will agree that we should be very proud of the standard that has been achieved by our students.

Litterae Optimae is published at the end of each term so our next edition should have a distinctly seasonal flavour!

S Reeves, English Exceptional Needs



Duke of Edinburgh's Award 2010

There have been several developments within the Award this year, and the enrolment procedure has changed to enable access online.

The most significant change for our school is the age at which students may start their Award, which is now at 14 yrs for Bronze and 15yrs for Silver. For Year 9 students this means waiting until they are 14 before enrolling in the scheme.

In order to offer as many students as possible the opportunity to participate in the Award, we have arranged that students who attain the age of 14 years before 21 February 2011 may register with Mrs Richardson to do their expedition training in 2011.

This will start in January 2011 and students will do the practical expedition in the summer term. There will be

an upper limit of 60 places to undertake this training, so it is important that students register their interest early.

Students who are 14 after 21 February 2011 will have to wait until Jan 2012 to train for the expedition section.

However, as soon as a student attains the age of 14 years they can enrol with the award nationally and start working toward their physical, skill and volunteering sections.

For more information, please contact Mrs Richardson at school.

M. Richardson, Dof E Co-ordinator

Year 10 Girls in Primary Schools

On 17 November four Year 10 girls volunteered to help at Sythwood Primary to work with a group of Year 5 girls from different schools. The day was to increase the confidence of the Year 5 girls in using Maths through playing games. It really helped them to see the older girls enjoying the subject.

On 24 November seven Year 10 girls volunteered to help at Horsell Village School, this time working with Year 1 girls from four different primaries. The objective was the same, to increase the confidence of the younger girls in Maths through playing games. It was a pleasure to watch the Year 10 girls explain mathematical concepts and performing the role of the teacher so confidently.

P Dixon, Maths Primary Liaison

A couple of the girls have written about their experiences:

Today, we had the incredible experience of helping at Horsell Village School, where we had to help Year 1 girls

with their numeracy skills. We played a range of games including, adding up numbers, naming shapes and making models of shapes. It was a very good experience and we really enjoyed working with younger girls. It was good to see them come out of their shells and do things for themselves to improve their confidence and their Maths skills.

Chloe Birks 10Y

On Wednesday 17 and Wednesday 24 November, we visited Sythwood School and Horsell Village School to encourage Year 5 and Year 1 girls from local schools to be enthusiastic about Maths by playing a variety of games that challenged their Maths skills. With the Year 5 students, we played two different types of Maths board games and with the Year 1 students we played six simple Maths games ranging from counting dinosaurs to making squares from straws. It was good to see the girls getting excited about Maths, sometimes using Maths skills without even realising. I noticed that they became more confident as the sessions progressed, and more likely to give answers. Also, the groups the girls were working in had students from different schools, so the girls were working with people they didn't know, but they still got along and worked together well. I think it was a very worthwhile experience; helping girls who weren't particularly confident in Maths develop their abilities made us more confident in our own skills.

Heather Ballard, 10W

Berlin Visit

BBC Television Centre Tour

Berlin Visit
November 2010



The History Department recently took 44 Year 10 and 11 students to Berlin. We visited many sites of historical interest that the students have been studying as part of the GCSE History course, including the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, preserved sections of the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie Museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Wannsee Villa. We were also able to practise our German, sample the fabulous food (especially the Schinken, Bratwurst, Sauerkraut and Schnitzel), stalk a celebrity and carry out some serious shopping! Berlin's oldest and best chocolate shop was ransacked by the Woking hordes and James Cordon is still recovering from the onslaught of the Woking paparazzi. Hopefully Berlin will have replenished their stocks of chocolate, Amplemen and sausage in time for the Christmas rush!

Here's what some of the students thought about the visit:

"What I found evil about the camp was the fact that nature has not yet returned – there are no birds or plants. It makes you wonder if they can sense the evil that has taken place in the past!" Tom at Sachsenhausen

"It is a very powerful memorial and very original. It is open to your opinion and gives an opportunity for you to remember the Jews, who were murdered, in your own way." Sanah at the Holocaust Memorial

"I really like the Jewish memorial and the stones in my mind are very fitting. They represent so many things and every new story I learnt would open up a new world of possible meanings"
Catriona at the Holocaust Memorial

"When we were taken into the conference room, the most remarkable thing was: these men were murderers, not with their hands but with the documents they signed." Charlotte at the Wannsee Villa

"I didn't expect everyone to find the visit, especially the concentration camp, as emotional as it was. This made me realise what a significant event in history it was and that it was a great thing to do to pay our respects." Catherine at Sachsenhausen

"The Berlin Wall symbolises the fall of communism and the struggle that people in East Berlin had to face to gain freedom. The West Germans treated the wall as a divider and thought anyone who crossed it to be very brave. It is now a memorial to their struggle" Emma at Bernauerstrasse

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students for their fantastic company and thoughtful insights during the visit. Our outstanding guide said that WHS students are the best groups that he has ever taken around Berlin!

M Jones, J Abbott, G Willett, P Browne and K Mallinson



MEDIA - BBC Television Centre Tour

On Day 11, 22 November, Woking High School took a group of students to see the iconic BBC Television Centre in Wood Lane, London.

When we arrived we were shown into the foyer which was very impressive. The ceilings were high and most of the walls were glass; it looked very modern and businesslike.

After picking up our tour guides, our first stop was security. Each bag was checked electronically and each person had to go through a scanner. We weren't frisked, but it certainly felt like we could have been!

Having survived security, we entered the building and started our tour. We were shown the news centre and saw the team who work on the website and the team who filter the information provided by the public.

Next, we went and looked around one of the star dressing rooms which looked quite modest, despite having hosted many famous guests over the decades. Our guide reassured us that the BBC works hard to look after its viewers' licence fee and taxes!

Later in the tour, we were shown two of the studios; it was amazing how small they were considering the job they do! (In fact, one of the studios we looked at was

being set up for the next "Strictly Come Dancing" show.) The lighting rig was breathtaking; there must have 1000 lights in that one small studio!

Shortly after visiting the studios, we went to the BBC meteorological centre. Here we learnt about the use of green screens and were taught to appreciate how talented weathermen and women are; you wouldn't believe how difficult it is to talk about - and point at - something that isn't actually there!

To conclude, we went into a BBC Tours studio where some of us were given a chance to re-enact a news presentation and a 'Weakest Link' game.

The tour was enlightening and an enjoyable experience; I think I can safely say that everyone who went on the school visit had an excellent time!

Elizabeth Eyers, 9E

Battle Of The Bands

MUSIC

Windband and Choir Tour – Spain 2010

Following an uneventful and sleepless 24-hour coach journey, we arrived at our beach side hotel mid morning of Monday 19 July. The tour party were accommodated in the 4**** Hotel Ramblas Miramar situated in the traditional coastal resort of Calafell in the Costa Dorada region of Spain, approximately 45 minutes South of Barcelona. All 30 students and five staff members were thankful of the beautiful hot weather as we spent a leisurely afternoon walking along the promenade, before finally getting the opportunity to test out the warm waters of the Mediterranean Sea and lie on a patch of nearly five kilometres of soft sand.

Day two commenced with a full rehearsal in the hotel bar. This was to be the venue for our first concert of four and it turned out to be one of our best, certainly in terms of audience numbers and enthusiasm. A good show of hotel guests turned up at 9.30 pm to listen to the band and choir perform a varied programme of music from West End shows to film music. The highlight of the concert was probably the encore, Espani Cani, a fiery and lively Spanish dance which got the crowd clapping along enthusiastically. Earlier in the day, we travelled up a steep hill, before flying back down to the bottom courtesy of Calafel Slides. Students, staff and even coach drivers had a fantastic time on this dry toboggan run; typically one or two of the boys decided to go for the downhill land speed record. Ruby was a little tentative to start with, resulting in a slight traffic jam behind her. Eventually, she did let the breaks go and nearly crashed into the person in front. All Grand Prix endeavours were captured on camcorder to be re run at a later date.

Our second venue, on day three, was on the outskirts of Barcelona, in the Poble Espanyol. This 'mock up' of a traditional Spanish town was built in the 1920's to showcase the architecture of the country. As a museum, it attracts many visitors each year. With the band set up in the shade, against the back drop of a 'fake' church, we performed to a mainly transient audience of passers by. Perhaps 11.30am was not a good time to perform but it certainly didn't break the spirit of all performers who gave a full hour's concert in very warm conditions. Once packed away, we spent around an hour on the coach having a guided tour of the city. We did get to see the famous Sagrada Família; the massive, privately-funded Roman Catholic Church that has been under construction since 1882. The building was quite beautiful and Antoni Gaudi certainly lives up to his reputation as one of the worlds greatest architects.

Day four saw us set off to the resort of Salou, an hour further south of Calafell. We arrived at the Europa Park Hotel to set up by the swimming pool to entertain a mixture of foreign guests. A sudden and heavy downpour of rain resulted in a move indoors and a good concert in the lounge area to a very appreciative audience. One of the guests was seen to be crying at the end of a moving rendition of the duet Pie Jesu sung by Indeera Shankla and Sarah Hill.

Our final full day in resort was spent at the Costa Caribe Water Park located in Salou which we had visited the day previously. It was a really lovely park and we all enjoyed the water and slides immensely. The location of our final concert proved to be a truly fitting end to our tour. Set within a traditional village square, we performed on a large stage to our largest audience yet and the atmosphere created in this lovely Spanish setting really captured the true essence of the whole tour. Music making at its best, performed by an ensemble of people who are all at different levels of musical ability, but able to play as one.

It turned out to be an excellent tour, organized through Equity Travel, and we were sad to say goodbye to our 'roadie' Mr Heaton in particular as we arrived back in Woking. His contribution to the setting up of sound equipment and to sunbathing was truly memorable! We were also lucky to have had such nice coach drivers in Phil and 'Del Boy'. They were true 'band groupies' and listened to all our concerts and cheerfully loaded our kit onto the coach time and time again. For seven outgoing Year 11 students, this was possibly their last tour with Woking High School Windband. Some of them have achieved 5 music tours during their time at school and I have extended the invitation to join us again on Tour 2011. I would like to personally thank Beth Cornish, Susannah Whittle, Lise Noyau, Richard Ackroyd, Joe Payne, Luke Stent and Alice Hoyle for their contribution to music in the school, and the support they have given to all performances at school and within the community. We wish them all well with their studies at college. We would also like to thank Frances Gee, former WHS Principal Clarinetist, now in Year 2 of studies at Godalming College. Frances had to be persuaded to 'come out of retirement' to make band numbers up to the required 30, and she did an excellent job on clarinet and tenor sax.

Martin Whybrow, who has now moved on to become Principal Tuba of The Royal Artillery Band, joined us on Tuba and as an



extra adult supervisor. In the absence of Jack Payne, who retired from WHS Band this year following 7 years of superb support on bass, Martin was an excellent ambassador for army music, and he certainly enriched us all with his superb musical ability and warm personality.

Students on tour were aged between 12 and 17. They all got on famously and it was lovely to see them enjoy themselves whether they were performing or relaxing. The Windband as always played brilliantly, really improving throughout the week and always managing a professional concert performance level when it mattered. The 6 members of Vocalise did as admirably well, literally singing their little hearts out. It proves that quality is better than quantity, and I am sure that they will all be telling those choirs members left behind at school just what they have missed, and hopefully our vocal numbers will swell in time for tour 2011.

S Goodwin, Director of Music

Battle of the Bands October 2010

On Wednesday 13 October, Woking High School hosted its first ever 'Battle of the Bands' contest. The event was organised by Tracy Warner and Jester Music (who

provide many of our peripatetic instrumental lessons within school). Jester provided Tom Jackson as professional sound manager, aided by our own TAG team (Technical Assistance Group), and Keith Rosetti as compère for the evening. With hot dogs to munch, over a hundred students and staff assembled in the school hall and waited to be entertained by four student rock bands which comprised of both ex and current Woking High School students. The Bands were:

Zero Evidence: Luke Stent, Elliot Stent, To Greatorex, Chris Norman and Zoe Kirk

Island Universe: Alex Allen, Fergus Crossby and Owen Burns

The Crimson: Sam Hopper, Henry Weaver, Sam Swedish and Indeera Shankla

Cosmos: Devon White-Aldworth, Eathan White-Aldworth, Ben Rollinson and Judea Llewelyn

In addition to the contest, we were fortunate to be entertained by two fantastic semi-professional bands. Neil Harris, part of the School Site Team was a former drummer in the famous mod revival band The Jam. Neil now plays in the band Nark Drool and the Shudders, an authentic 50s rock 'n' roll band. Clad in drape jackets and drainpipe trousers, petticoats and ra-ra dresses, the group performed toe tapping favourites from the late 50's and early 60's including Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly and The



Remembrance Day Concert

Music Exams

Shadows. Sweet Talk was the 'Headline Act', a four-piece boy band who were screamed at continuously by the front line of girls throughout their 30 minute set. They were a truly excellent conclusion to the evening and I am indebted to both bands for giving up their time so freely and for giving the event and musical content that professional edge.

The coveted prize for the performance of their lives was a day in a recording studio where the winners would have the opportunity to lay down their best tracks with the help of industry professionals. Simon Slater, David Durrant and Hannah Kirton were the prestigious judges; all with musical backgrounds, and in true X Factor style, they adjudicated from a raised stage, giving positive feedback, before announcing the winning band. All the performers were confident and entertaining with notable vocals from Zoe and Indeera, some fabulous guitar work from Alex Allen and amazing drumming by Luke Stent. Amongst the audience, everyone had their favourite band, but in the end, The Crimson came out on top and there was much whooping and cheering from the audience. There were no losers in Woking High Schools' first ever rock gig. Every band performed magnificently and 'owned that stage' as Louis Walsh would have said. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and we all hope that the Battle of the Bands can now become an annual event in the school calendar.

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance



Examination Success for Students in Music Performance - July - December 2010

During the academic year, the following students (placed in alphabetical order) all passed practical examinations on various instruments or through dance for the Associated Board of The Royal School of Music or Rock School. Students were also successful in written music theory based papers.

Emma Atkins Yr 9 - Grade 4 Clarinet - Distinction

Adam Best Yr 7 - Grade 4 Theory of Music - Distinction

Paul Best Yr 7 - Grade 4 Theory of Music - Merit

Catherine Campbell Yr 10 - Grade 6 Pianoforte - Merit

Elizabeth Campbell Yr 7 - Grade 3 Oboe - Merit, Grade 4 pianoforte

Lydia Ciccone Yr 8 - Grade 3 Flute - Merit

Megan Fuge Yr 10 - Grade 5 Alto Saxophone - Distinction.

Linus Fuge Yr 7 - Grade 5 Pianoforte - Distinction.

Lydia Girdler Yr 9 - Grade 2 Flute - Merit

Georgina Gray Yr 8 - Grade 3 Flute

Emma Hardacre Yr 10 - Grade 6 Trumpet

James Hardacre Yr 7 - Grade 5 Trombone - Merit

Laura Holgate Yr 7 - Bronze Medal Street Dance

Nicole Housego Yr 7 - Grade 1 Theory of music - Distinction

Jennifer Kirk Yr 8 - Grade 3 Clarinet - Merit

Elisabeth Lamont Yr 8 - Grade 1 Harp - Distinction.

Rebecca Lynne Yr 8 - Grade 3 Clarinet

Elizabeth Nay Yr 10 - Grade 5 Singing

Emily Pain Yr 10 - Grade 6 Flute - Merit

Daniel Pearce Yr 8 - Grade 3 Orchestral percussion - Distinction

Caitlin Porter Yr 10 - Grade 5 Flute



Holly Ruddle Yr 7 –Grade 1 Clarinet

Emily Ruddle Yr 8 –Grade 1 Clarinet

Indeera Shankla Yr 11 – Grade 6 Pianoforte and Grade 7 Singing

Tara Shankla Yr 9 – Grade 2 Alto saxophone – Merit, Grade 5 piano, Grade 5 modern dance – distinction, Intermediate Foundation ballet - distinction

Mathew Street Yr 10 – Grade 5 Percussion – Merit

Michael Sugden Yr 9 – Grade 2 Alto saxophone – Merit

Hannah Watts Yr 10 - Grade 5 Pianoforte

Izzy Weir Yr 11 – Grade 5 Alto saxophone

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance

Forthcoming Musical Events

17 February 2011

Annual Instrumental and Vocal Competition in aid of Cystic Fibrosis. The winner receives the Lorna Paterson Award for Special Achievement in Music.

25 March 2011

Woking High School Windband in concert with The Band of The Royal Logistic Corps

5/6 April 2011

School Production of “My Fair Lady”

Please visit the school website for more details on these events nearer the time.

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance

Remembrance Day Concert 11 November 2010

On Remembrance Day, Thursday 11 November, the school hosted a special Remembrance Day Concert in the Main School Hall. Earlier that day at the eleventh hour, of the eleventh day, of the eleventh month, Emma Hardacre (Year 10) gave a note perfect rendition of the Last Post on her trumpet whilst the school observed two minutes silence in respect for all those who have given their lives in past and present conflicts.

Attended by the Deputy Mayor of Woking and a packed audience of staff, family and friends, the evening concert reflected specifically on the Battle of Britain which had celebrated a 70th anniversary in September. Mr Sharples provided a vocal link to a varied musical programme of music from the 1940's. His narrative focused on the bravery of those young pilots who won the battle of the skies and on the spirit of people who lived during the blitz. Drama students performed poetry and read diaries from the blitz whilst the TAG team provided a wonderful set of a fallen warplane along with atmospheric sound and lights to capture a bye-gone era.



Creative and Media Diploma Sport

Drama News Band and Choir

The Windband, and School Choir, Vocalise, performed a mixture of items including songs from Oklahoma and Carousel with the Dance Band, Stage Centre, recreating the era of Glen Miller with an authentic version of Moonlight Serenade amongst their items. Head Girl, Zoe Kirk sang perfectly a haunting version of Vera Lynne's classic 'We'll Meet Again', and Indeera Shankla reminded us of London with her beautiful version of 'A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square'. Other soloists were Year 9 student Helen Tinlin who performed the appropriately named 'Remember When' on solo flute and for the first time ever at Woking High School, the harp and bagpipes were featured. The audience were truly spellbound by Elisabeth Lamont (Year 8) who took centre stage with her harp and performed 'Evening Song'. Fraser Tattersdill (Year 7) took the audience by surprise by striking up from the rear of the hall with his bagpipes and walking slowly

to the front, played the poignant lament, Amazing Grace. This special Remembrance Day concert concluded with the band and Chamber Choir's rendition of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' before Mrs Abbott thanked everyone, but in particular the students who had rehearsed and prepared for this special event.

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance



Band and Choir Performance at the Peacock Centre

18 November 2010

For the fourth year running, Woking High School Windband was once again invited to perform for the 'switching on of the Christmas lights' in the Peacock Centre, Woking. The band was accompanied for their second outing by our School Choir, 'Vocalise' who took to the stage to sing numerous festive carols including a rendition of 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas'. Sara Hill and Indeera Shankla performed a beautiful duet in the first verse of Away in a Manger, and then Indeera went on to sing the solo verse of Once in Royal David's City which reverberated throughout the shopping centre thanks to much needed amplification. Supported by a couple of ex Woking High School students, the Windband managed to play over 15 carols perfectly and as usual, were extremely professional in their approach.

The band and choir thoroughly enjoy this annual performance which marks the start of our Christmas programme of music within school and the community. It was a pleasure to see parents, friends and staff members supporting the students performance, in what was a difficult and noisy atmosphere. The Band and Choir were a credit to the school and were a fantastic

opening act in what appeared to be a busy schedule of musical items leading towards the 'switch on' of the Christmas Lights

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance

News from Drama

Next year's exciting production is My Fair Lady. This glorious Rogers and Hammerstein musical made famous by Audrey Hepburn and Rex Harrison will be brought to life again at Woking High. The cast is one of our most accomplished ever with two West End stars, Indeera Shankla and Max Bowden in the leading roles and a full supporting cast of many of our most talented students. The show is a wonderful 'rags to riches' story with the added frisson of professional competition added in.

The wonderful voices of Vocalise will swell the throng in a performance ably managed by Mr Goodwin. The music will be performed by the Windband and features many all time favourites such as Get Me to the Church on Time, Wouldn't it be Lovely and The Ascot Gavotte.

The show will be performed on 5 and 6 April 2011 so reserve a place in your diaries now.

N Selmes, Head of Drama



Creative and Media Diploma

This has been an exciting and ground breaking term for the Creative and Media Students. The course is brand new and students have had the enormous benefit of start up funds to buy fabulous new equipment to use.

As a part of the course they have been to Eagle Radio where they have interviewed the whole team, and made their own one hour radio show. In the short time they have been together the students have bonded into a coherent and successful team, They are self branded as 'Firstfire' and have their own website and uniforms. You can visit this at www.firstfire.org. There you can read their weekly blog, see photographs of the students in action and of their fabulous shirts.

The students have a very active curriculum and have so far made visits to the Tate Galleries



and had expert visits from journalists, dj's and film makers. Further units will involve the building of atmospheric installations to be used to make evocative short films and photographs and the marketing and promotion of a small charity www.joyhomeforchildren.com.

To date the students have achieved fabulous results and have been asked to undertake work for such dignified projects as the training video for the handover of Guilford Civic Hall and the Cultural Olympiad celebrations with Woking Borough Council.

N Selmes, C & M Lead Teacher

SPORT

Year 1 & 2 Multi-Skills Festival - 17 November 2010

20 of Woking High's Year 10 BTEC Sport students were asked by School Sport Co-ordinator (SSCo), Mrs Pye, to plan, organise and lead the Year 1 & 2 Multi-Skills Festival, which was to be held in our school on 17 November. Every student jumped at the chance at taking part as it meant we would improve our leadership skills and get to work with younger children.

After many weeks of preparation, research and actually testing out the activities we were all ready for the children when they arrived. We had all researched into what makes a successful sports leader, however we had never really put it into practice. Subsequently, we were all a little nervous, but also very eager to try something new and have a good time!

Bisley, Beaufort, St. Lawrence, Sythwood, Horsell Village and Pirbright all took part, each bringing 12 children with them; 6 from Year 1 and 6 from Year 2. The children arrived very energized and extremely excited to get started straight away.

We had planned fun, yet challenging stations for all the children to try. These stations included throwing bean bags into targets, obstacle courses, walking along beams and dribbling a football around the hall. There was something for everyone which catered for the different ability, age and interest in sport! Equally, every child was given the opportunity to learn a new technique or skill, for example; jumping over cones backwards. This way they may have been able to teach their friends back at school a new

technique and tell them how much fun they had.

I overheard one child saying, 'I hope they will do this again next year. I loved it!' This really sums up the fabulous evening we had because every child excelled in what they were doing and thrived in their activities. Furthermore, all the children were cheering on their school friends, and were willing to try anything! At the same time as being competitive; they also considered everyone around them and were a pleasure to have at Woking High School.

Every BTEC sport student commented on how much they had learnt and how they adapted their activity to the children's abilities. We also learnt from our mistakes and know for next time what we can improve on. In addition, even though some of us were nervous at first, as soon as we got started we went into leadership mode and had a fun, enjoyable evening!

You could really see this was successful as every child went home with a smile on their face, laughing and telling their parents all about their tremendous evening they had with us. In my opinion this is the most important factor in becoming a successful sports leader, as if you know they have had a great time, you too can leave with a smile on your face!

By Alice Newton, Year 10 BTEC Sport Student

Autumn 2010 PE News

Last year was an incredible year of success for the school in a whole range of sports and this year has started in a similar vein.

At the English Schools Cross Country Championships we did extremely well with three of our four teams progressing from the Hampshire and North West Surrey County qualifying rounds on to the London and South East Regional Finals at Beth's Grammar School in Kent. At the London and South East Regional Finals the Inter Boys were superb and won with the following Year 9 & 10 Boys involved: Rob Hall, Jacob Rainier, Josh Bowden, Josh Petters, Sam King and Marcus Vlassak. They have now qualified for the National Finals which are being held in Alnwick, Northumberland. The Inter Girls did well finishing 5th with a team of Kaitlin Howard, Megan Brooke, Matilda Rainsborough, Misha Blair and Helen Tinlin. The Junior Boys also competed well and consisted of Stuart Wilkin, Daniel Johnson, Josh Rainier, Reuben Bowler and Josh Bowler.

At the British Schools Biathlon the Year 10 boys dominated the Surrey qualifying round with Oliver Weedon claiming first place individually, Rob Hall second and Marcus Vlassak third. As a team of three Olly, Rob and Marcus are currently ranked fourth in Britain and will compete in the London and South East Regional Finals in February.

The Schools Boys Football teams have started positively with Year 7,9,10 and 11 having recorded some excellent results, in District, County and National Cup Competitions. The Year 9, 10 and 11's remain unbeaten in all competitions, having progressed to the semi-finals of the District Cup and 3rd Round of the Surrey Cup. In addition the Year 7's have also qualified for the District Semi finals with a hard fought win against Fullbrook. Josh Bowler (Fulham) showed his class throughout the game.

The arrival of Chelsea academy player Zain Westbrooke has added to the quality of the Year 9 squad, joining Addison Bray (Southampton) and Stuart Wilkin (Southampton) in making the attacking threat of the team mouth watering at times. Coupled with the quality of the Woking Academy players, Bowden, Kaine, Rapley and Aughterson the side has once again started well.

The Year 10's have continued their fine form from last year, showing strength in depth throughout the squad. Winning away at Woolwich Polytechnic without several key players was testimony to this, with standout performances from Eddie Young and Sam Swinger at the heart of defence.

The Year 11s have started well with the attacking threat of Curd, Cheesman and Wake being difficult for opposing teams to cope with. Coupled with this the outstanding defending of Barham,

Slade and the unflappable Bobbett in goal has allowed the side to show its unquestionable ability.

The Year 8 B Team Football has also tasted success winning a triangular tournament involving Fullbrook and BDB. Beating: Fullbrook 3 – 1 and BDB 4 – 2 with Matthew Barker and Steven Tyrell performing outstandingly.

In Badminton three out of four teams have made it through to the last 4 of the North West Surrey Competitions. The Junior boys team look likely to qualify for the Surrey finals with a very strong squad of players including Douglas Patterson, Addison Bray, Charlie Gregory, Ben Coker, Josh Bowden and Jack Fairey. They recorded fine wins in qualifying against the following:

Winston Churchill	5 – 0,	SJB	4 – 1,
BDB	5 – 0,	Fullbrook	5 – 0.

At the Year 7 and 8 North West Surrey Basketball Tournaments both boys teams have made very positive starts with the Year 8 boys winning the first tournament and the Year 7's coming second in theirs. The Year 8 team consisted of Josh Evans, Ben Rashbrook, Jacob Bowler, Harry Wood, Shaun Barclay and Oscar Brown. The Year 7 team consisted of Tom Sharp, Alex Braine-Porter, Adam Tolefree, Matthew Tolefree, Daniel Walton, Adam Best and Ben Puttick. The Year 9, 10 and 11 Boys Basketball teams are currently all unbeaten having recorded comfortable wins in all 6 matches played so far in both District, County and National competitions.

The Year 8 girls who are reigning District Champions showed their class in the first of three tournaments, with the A Team winning and the B Team finishing runners up. Both teams destroyed all in front of them. With the A Team squad consisting of Olivia Palmer, Chloe Last, Holly Barnes, Chloe Alexis, Lydia Ciccone and Emma Judd and the B Team Tess Weedon, Valli McAdam, Alice Gilbert, Sophie Maher, Maria Hanis and Laura Sandow.

At the National Championships for Baton Twirling Year 8 Bethany Barber did incredibly well, she finished in the top 3 in no fewer than 6 disciplines winning two of the categories and being selected for England.

As mentioned in the last newsletter Rob Hall had qualified to represent Surrey in the English Schools Athletic Championship. After qualifying from his heat and semi final, he finished a very impressive 4th in the Junior Boys 800m Final in a time of 2mins 3.95 seconds. This was an outstanding achievement and the event was televised live on Sky Sports.

We have also been involved in rugby, netball and girls football



fixtures which are still in their early stages of competitions but a number of teams and age groups look very promising.

At present many students have taken raffle tickets to sell regarding the RFU Grand Prize Draw. Last year the School raised close to £1,700, which was an outstanding effort on the part of students and parents. Money generated from the raffle ticket sales will be used exclusively to purchase new kit and equipment for all the school's sports teams. The

money from last year's draw was spent on purchasing 2 brand new Adidas Football kits; 2 Basketball kits, swimming hats, various match balls and contributed towards the cost of coaches to and from fixtures such as Swimming Galas and English Schools Athletics competitions. In addition, we were able to secure the guest speaker at the Sports Award Dinner in July.

J Justice, Head of PE

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

For the first time ever, the school now has two Young Enterprise companies running concurrently.

"Unlimited", the Year 10 company will follow the traditional path of local area competitions and workshops, honing their business skills and devising a series of products.

"Ekko", the Y11 company, will be putting into practice the skills they learnt in last year's competitions, with a particular eye on European markets. They are actively researching business partnerships with other Young Enterprise teams across the continent, with a view to marketing their products at home and abroad.

Both companies are currently running a joint enterprise games competition with some success. Another first for Woking High.

B Ford

Y10 Young Enterprise Company "Unlimited" compete in The Dragons' Den.

A packed Guildhall in Guildford saw our team give a confident and assured display, presenting their company to



a team of potential investors. The four, Misha Blair, Managing Director, George Bowen, Deputy Managing Director, Ayushi Aggarwal, Finance Director & Ameena Khan Sullivan, Marketing Director, each produced an confident performance as they gave a detailed account of their business plan and proposed products. As in previous years, Woking High students were the youngest in the competition and the only team from the Woking Federation. They more than held their own against the sixth formers from the other 14 competing schools. To quote one of the Young Enterprise Business Advisers, our students are "a credit to the school and never cease to impress the event organisers".

Unlimited are currently running a games competition in order to raise capital for their major product launch in December, a range of cosmetics aimed at the Christmas market. Be sure to shop early to avoid disappointment.

B Ford

Young Carers

Young Carers continue to meet regularly on the first Wednesday of every month for lunch and mutual support. We would like to thank Mrs Gill Walsh and the St Mary's Church Drop in group for their continuing

support of our Young carers through their regular donations which pay for our lunches. We look forward to our visit to St Mary's Church on 17 December

C Wilkinson, Student Support Officer

Humanities Gets a Makeover

Following the major remodelling of the English block over the summer of 2009, the Humanities block, by comparison, was looking decidedly down at heel. It was agreed that the summer of 2010 would be the Humanities turn for a makeover. As a much smaller building there was no scope to structurally remodel the building, so the works were confined to updating the décor, improving the lighting, renewing the entrance and adding a mini suit of computers to H6. An additional office was also created out of a disused cloakroom area. The 1970's pebbles in the foyer were concreted over and "Alfresco Sky" paint chosen to give a cool calm ambiance.

At the back of room H6 a very solid built-in bench was removed, to make room for a suite of PCs for use by the Geography department. Furniture requirements were met and give a pleasingly professional effect. The Friends of Woking High have awarded a grant for the purchase of several National Geographic prints, chosen by students, and these are currently being framed for display.

All that is now needed to finish the project is for the Students to design History and Geography Logos for the entrance.

K Collins, Business Manager





Parent Portal

Parent Portal will be launched to all parents in the new year. This system will give parents the ability to log onto the school Virtual Learning Environment (FROG) and view information related to their child's attendance, assessment and behaviour. The system has been trailed with a small working group of parents who were able to provide useful feedback on the setup of the initial system. The launch will be with all Year 7 parents during December, and will then be rolled out to all other Year groups in January.

B Ramdhony, Assistant Principal

Uniform Request

Thank you for all the donations of second hand uniform, we are well stocked up on most items now. However, we are still short of good quality second hand trousers and skirts. Any blazers would also be gratefully received. Please bring any donated items to the Front office.

C Wilkinson, Student Support Officer

WOKING HIGH SCHOOL PRIZE CLUB UPDATE

Hello my name is Julie Barker, newly elected Vice Chairman of FoWHS. Our AGM was held on the last Thursday of November and tension mounted as we headed towards our first draw for the NEW Prize Club! If you haven't yet had the chance, this is a brand new opportunity to enter a cash prize lottery which directly benefits the school helping to buy items such as new books, drama, music, art and technology equipment and MUCH more. Subscriptions are £5 per month, collected termly by standing order. The lottery is drawn and prizes awarded on a termly basis. Full terms and conditions and an application form can be found on the website under "Communities" then "Friends of Woking High" or if you prefer, please e-mail me, carl.barker30@ntlworld.com and I can pop one in the post for you.

Thank you to everyone who has already joined the Prize Club and to all those who currently donate to the school in many and various ways. Please consider taking part, as more members equal bigger prizes and greater benefits for all students at Woking High School. Thank you.

Julie Barker, Vice Chairman, FoWHS

Free School Meals

Families in receipt of the following may be eligible to receive a free school meal to the value of £2.05 per day - that's £10.25 per week:

- Income Support,
- Income Based Job Seeker's Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, provided that their annual income is less than £16,190 (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) and they are not in receipt of Working Tax Credit
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance

Using our cashless catering cards this allowance is easily credited to each student. We have enclosed full details of the free school meals scheme with this news letter. If your child qualifies for free school meals please complete the application form and return it to the school office at the beginning of the spring term together with any documentary evidence in support.

You may have heard in the press recently about the "Pupil Premium". This is a mechanism to target education funding towards students from families receiving allowances. So now it is doubly important that any family eligible for free school meals does claim them. Please return the enclosed form to us, whether or not you decide to take up your Free School Meals entitlement. All replies will be kept strictly confidential. Thank you for your co-operation.

K Collins, Business Manager

Term Dates

Attendance

Medication

Uniform Supplies

Attendance

There is a proven, undeniable link between student attendance and student attainment as research consistently shows. Attendance also has a major impact on students' future employment and earning potential and plays a key part in safeguarding the lives of our young people. Regular attendance enhances both academic learning and students' personal, moral and social development. Over the past few years, I am delighted that both the attendance and attainment targets for Woking High School have been both met and exceeded. We are very grateful for the support of parents in ensuring that their sons/daughters attend school on every possible occasion and ask that this very positive pattern of sustained regular attendance continues.

I would like to draw to your attention our newly worded Leave of Absence form (see enclosed). Leave of Absence can be requested from the Principal in exceptional circumstances e.g. selection to represent county/country in sports/music or similar, to attend interviews/examinations and compassionate circumstances. Leave of Absence is not given for holidays during term time. If Leave of Absence is approved it is recorded as an

authorised absence. If Leave of Absence is not approved, it is recorded as an unauthorised absence which then appears on student records, references, and is reported to the Governing Body possibly leading to further penalties being imposed. This is a situation which I am sure both you and the school want to avoid.

Please do continue to support the school and your son/daughter by encouraging them to have excellent attendance and if possible achieve a 100% platinum attendance award.

J Abbott, Principal

School Uniform Supplies

G&S by Valentino Ltd, at 23-29 Broadway, Knaphill, Woking, GU21 2DR, have supplied our school uniform for many years and have given the school and our parents superb service during this time. All items of our uniform can be obtained from their shop or on line at www.valentinoschoolwear.com. If you are planning to buy any items of uniform in the near future, look out for their promotions and money saving offers.

J Abbott, Principal

Medication

May we remind parents and carers that students should not be carrying medication in school. Any medication that needs to be taken during the school day should be handed in to the front office at the start of the day.

K Pace, Reception

TERM DATES

SPRING	Wednesday 5 January – Friday 8 April 2011
<i>Half Term</i>	21 February – 25 February 2011
SUMMER	Tuesday 26 April – Friday 22 July 2011
<i>Half Term</i>	Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June
INSET Days	Friday 28 January 2011 Monday 20 June 2011
Bank Holidays	Friday 29 April 2011 Monday 2 May 2011