



Parents Newsletter

Special points of interest:

Important Dates.

- 15th Nov: S4 Prelim fortnight begins
- 3rd Dec: S4 Music and Drama Practical Exams
- 20th Dec: S4 Reports issued
- 22nd Dec.: School Closes 2.30pm for holidays
- 5th Jan: School reopens 8:45



Parent Partnership

Any parent is welcome to join the Parent Partnership or just pop along to a meeting to find out more about us. You can also find us on @WFH_PPpartners

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Dear Parent

I hope you find this newsletter useful in sharing some of the excellent work taking place in Woodfarm High School. If you are the parent of a new S1 pupil, I would take this opportunity to welcome you to the school. I know that your son/daughter will do well here, and you should know that we will do our very best to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

I am pleased to report that session 2020/21 was a positive year for Woodfarm High School in SQA exam results despite the Covid-19 pandemic and the effects of lockdown. The graphs show how our results have been generally improving over the last 7 years with 2021 giving our highest ever 5+ Higher and 1+ Advanced Higher results. This improvement is down to the hard work of pupils and teachers as well as the support of parents - well done to everyone. To continue this improvement

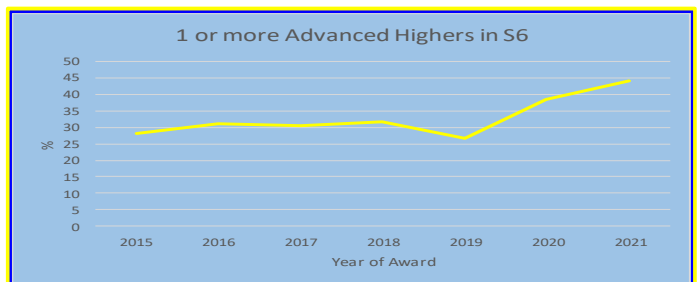
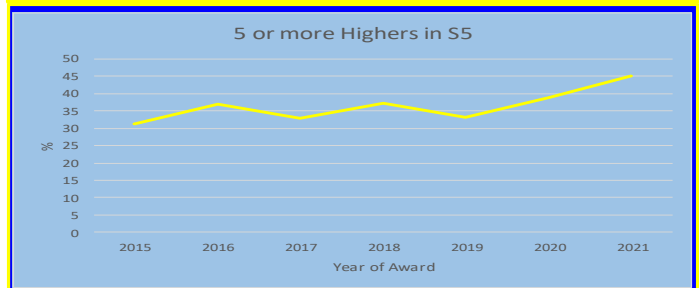
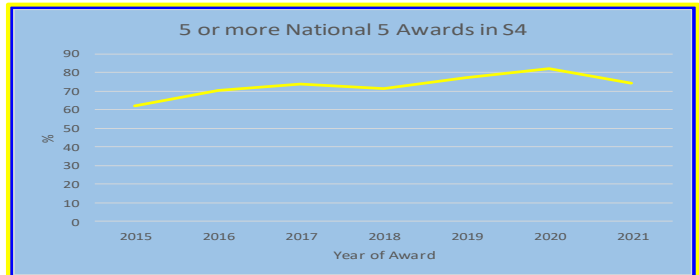
“Higher Standards, Higher Expectations - Greater Opportunity” is the clear message to everyone associated with the school for the coming year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your support in ensuring that all pupils wear the proper **Woodfarm HS uniform**. This is one way that we can all show pride in ourselves and the school. The standard of uniform has been excellent, a positive statement that Woodfarm is a force to be reckoned with! Well done to all.

I would also take this opportunity to ask for your continued support in ensuring your child brings a suitable face covering to school and where possible a spare. As cases of Covid-19 continue to fluctuate, it's important we try to keep the Woodfarm HS community as safe as possible. Any young person interested in participating in the lateral flow scheme should speak to the school office.

Many parents entitled to receive a free school meal for their children do not apply, **OR RE-APPLY**, for one. Many aspects of the school's funding is allocated in relation to free meal uptake. The cashless catering system in the school means that no one knows who is in receipt of a free meal. It is therefore important that everyone entitled, **applies or re-applies for this year**. Application forms with the qualification criteria are available from the school office or East Renfrewshire Council Customer First. If you feel that you might be entitled **please apply or RE-APPLY** and help your child(ren) and all the others receive their fair share of resources.

Gillian Boyle



School Captains

Our 2021/2022 school captains were off to a flying start meeting Miss Boyle and Mr Lindsay on the teachers' in-service days in August to discuss their ideas and plans for the coming year. The captains set the standard by appointing themselves to front door duty in the first week of term. This has now become routine for the prefect team as they join the staff in the morning to welcome pupils to school.

Congratulations to our Captains Ishwa and Fraser and our Vice-Captains Kirsten, Tabitha and Niamh. We hope you have a productive year in charge.



Charity Fundraising

Well done to members of the Adventure Group who received the Youth Scotland Hi5 awards for their activities undertaken last session.



Arran House - Annabel M and Isobel P

Bute House - Chloe F and Saman H

Cumbræ House - Katherine O'B and Katherine B

Tiree House - Sophie P and Zoha Y

Bon Travail!

S1 pupils demonstrated great effort and creativity in the French jotter competition early in the new session. Well done to all those who entered.



Congratulations to our 2021/22 House Captains, they will be responsible for helping to coordinate house events and will work with all pupils to create Woodfarm t.v. clips on topics the school community want to hear more about. Please remember to encourage your child to upload their achievements via the QR code in school or send us an email to schoolmail@woodfarm.e-renfrew.sch.uk

GamTalk UK

On 3rd September, S5/6 pupils had the privilege of listening to a presentation from Paul Pettigrew, founder of GamTalk UK, where he shared his personal story of gambling addiction having been released by his football



club as a youth player. Paul has recently featured on Sky Sports outlining the talks he provides to schools and youth football clubs.



Fresher's Fair



3rd September also saw S1 and S2 pupils participating in the Fresher's Fair. Pupils were encouraged to get involved in extra curricular activities and clubs. The photo booth section proved to be very popular with pupils



Requests from The School Office

1. As Covid-19 restrictions remain in place, please ensure your child has a face covering with them each day
2. When collecting pupils for appointments can parents please arrange in advance for their children to meet them at the school office. This avoids the office staff having to go and collect pupils from class
3. Can parents please ensure that pupils have their own re-usable water bottle to re-fill at the water fountains. Cups should not be provided via the school office.

Staff Stars



Congratulations to Ms Ferguson (Art & Design) who's photograph "Leap of Faith" has been selected as the Editor's Pick on National Geographic. Her photo of a fox and frog taken close to her home was singled out from a wealth of outstanding images from across the globe.

Congratulations also to Miss Farrell (B.I.T.) on achieving her Masters in Education. Miss Farrell's dissertation on Flipped Classroom was classed as a 1st and we look forward to learning from her in our sharing professional practice sessions this year.

Our Librarian Mr Panayiotakis has been busy this session, his article on "Maddie is Online", a project he has been running in Woodfarm HS based on digital resilience and digital literacy, was published in the 'School Librarian'

Mr Morrow (Music) has been out and about introducing pupils in our cluster primary schools to the joys of the ukulele. Each of our cluster primary schools will have 9 weeks of specialist music instruction from Mr Morrow throughout the year.



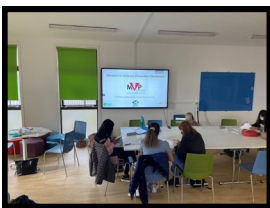
Similarly, Mrs Naeem (Modern Languages) is also working with our cluster primaries to deliver introductory sessions to pupils in Urdu. Woodfarm is fortunate to have a specialist Urdu teacher and we are loving the opportunity to give all pupils a chance to study another language. Miss Sherry (PE) has also been delivering lessons in our cluster primaries as part of our transition programme. Pupils are making progress on building skills in movement and PE ahead of their transition to secondary.

Congratulations also to Miss Papiransky (Music) who successfully achieved one of her dreams in October. She was asked to support the renowned artist KT Tunstall at her concert in Dunfermline. A phenomenal personal achievement and a chance to meet her hero. A true inspiration to all budding artists.



Senior Prefect Team 2021/22

Congratulations to this year's newly elected Senior Prefects. They will support the school captains in running the school prefect system and are entitled to an additional stripe in their braiding to reflect their new status. Well done to our senior prefects and our newly elected S5/S6 prefect team. I look forward to working with you all.



MVP Ambassadors

In September our S4 volunteers undertook their training as part of the Mentors in Violence Prevention programme.

MVP is a peer mentoring programme that gives young people the chance to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of violence. It addresses a range of behaviours including name-calling, sexting, controlling behaviour and harassment, and uses a 'by-stander' approach where individuals are not looked on as potential victims or perpetrators but as empowered and active bystanders with the ability to support and challenge their peers in a safe way.



Scottish by Inclination

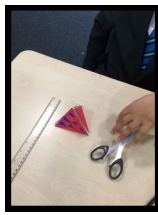
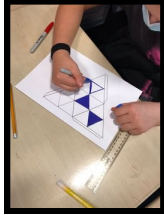
Woodfarm librarian and Scottish Volleyball coach Mr Panayiotakis was interviewed by teacher, children's author and media columnist Barbara Henderson for her new book Scottish by Inclination. Mr P was praised for his insight and even sent an idiom from Cyprus: "the tail of a dog will never be straight" which refers to someone stuck in their ways. Mr P is always happy to discuss his journey and share his wisdom with others.



Ioannis with the Scottish U18 volleyball team.

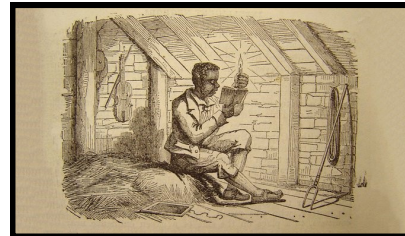
Maths Week Scotland

Maths Week Scotland is an annual event celebrating numeracy and 'all things number' in school, at home and in the work place. This year Woodfarm turned their hand to Sierpinsky Pyramids, Time, Music, Design, Numeracy at Work and many other activities in celebration of mathematics and numeracy throughout the school.



Black History Month

October is Black History month and an excellent opportunity for discussion around diversity, history and Woodfarm's intolerance for racism. Pupils in all year groups were encouraged to learn through investigation and discussion in a number of different subject areas about Britain's history, prejudice, intolerance and the small steps that have been made to address such behaviours. Open discussion also took place around Woodfarm's own policies and attitudes towards intolerance with anti-racism as a main focus in assemblies. Did you know Britain's first black teacher, Tom Jenkins, taught in the Scottish Borders?



Virtual Careers Night

Wednesday 20th October 3- 5 pm
In Woodfarm High School
 Pupils will remain in school from 3 - 5 pm to attend talks.
 Live presentations from:
 SRUC (Scottish Rural College)
 Army
 Aecom (Civil Engineering)
 Grant Thornton (Accountants)
 Taylor Wimpey
 University of Dundee (medicine and Dentistry)
 University of Edinburgh
 Glasgow Caledonian University
 University of Strathclyde
 Institute of Chemical Engineers
 Glasgow kelvin College/South Lanarkshire College
 SP Energy
 University of West of Scotland
 J P Morgan
 University of Stirling
 University of St Andrews
 Heriot Watt University
 Glasgow School of Art
 Jen Whiston SDS will also be available for drop in sessions.
 To apply to attend talks please see link on [google classroom](#)

Virtual Careers Evening

With the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions preventing us from hosting our Careers Evening in person, Mrs Strain and her team powered on and organised a fantastic online event allowing pupils to attend online presentations in careers or subject areas they were interested in. A very big thank you to all our organisers and facilitators, feedback from the pupils has been very positive.



Learning never stops.

As the old saying goes, "Every day is a school day" and for our teachers and classroom support staff, this is very true. The October In-service day gave us time to work with Professor Kate Wall on understanding the use of professional reading and practitioner enquiry to provide better experiences for our learners. We also had the opportunity to work together to discuss ways to Promote Positive Relationships.



The presentations are now available for viewing on the school website, just follow the Developing the Young Workforce tab.

Spooky Talent

Young writer success in October. Katie S and Alice R, both S3 will have their Halloween themed stories published in a book of Spooky Sagas. We look forward to catching up with the girls when they finally get to see their name in print!



Also on a Spooky theme, pupils in S1 and S2 were given the opportunity to put their creative talents to the test in D&T by painting their own pumpkins.



Not to be outshone, the competitive edge of the staff was also piqued with the pumpkin carving competition. Congratulations to Mr Higgins for having such a talented family.



Ready, Steady, Cook

Congratulations to Sophie P and Liam P, both S3 who will proceed to the next round of the "Future Chef School". These budding chefs worked hard to create and cook a dish of their choice, costing no more than £5 for ingredients. They had to beat some tough competition in the school heat and will take part in the local heat at City of Glasgow College in November. Gordon Ramsay eat your heart out!



New Piano Start

A terrific achievement from Elise F S5 who was awarded second prize in the New Piano Stars 2021 Competition against tough opposition. Well done Elise!



Woodfarm Generosity

Congratulations to Aisha A, Kinga W (S6) and the Charities committee who raised over £1000 for Islamic Relief. Islamic Relief is an international aid agency that provides humanitarian relief and development programmes in over 40 countries, serving communities in need regardless of race, political affiliation, gender or belief. The committee organised a variety of events from pakora lunches for staff, a highly successful sponge the teacher event, a staff/pupil lip sync battle, spooky movie night, staff coffee morning, henna hand painting and many others. Outstanding organisation and determination from all involved.



Thank you to all the staff and pupils for your generous donations.

S6 Tug-O-War



Lovely weather in September allowed the S6 Captains to plan and organise the first event in school for quite some time. Opting for an exceptionally competitive House Tug-of-War. A tremendous effort from all teams, but it was Tthree house that takes an early lead in the battle for House supremacy. Congratulations.

Walk-Eat-Sleep (Repeat)



It's been great to see so many of our Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups able to get out and about in our first term back. Pupils in S4-S6 who were unable to complete their DofE expeditions due to the

Covid-19

pandemic have now thankfully and successfully had that opportunity. Some groups were rather more fortunate than others with regards the weather, but still the smiles continued regardless. Well done all!



European school sports week

Thanks to Mr Scott and the PE department, all Woodfarm pupils participated in a variety of European sports including Dutch Korfbal, Swedish long ball and Scottish dance during their PE time. Pupils



used the awareness week to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity and held a staff v S6 softball match and a 'beat the goalie' event too.



Sports News

Summer 2021 may have been quiet for some of us, but for other members of our school community this was an exciting and incredibly busy time. Georgia G (S4) was selected to represent Scotland in the U17 European qualifiers. Representing her country is nothing new to Georgia who also represented Scotland and Scottish Schools at U15's level. We wish Georgia well this season and hope she can bring Scotland success at U16 and U17 level. I feel a school trip to the footy may be in the pipelines!



Football success too this season for Ryan M (S6) and Ellis G (S3) who will be representing the Paisley & District Schools Football Association at U18 and U15 levels respectively. Congratulations also to Kirsten MacD (S3) and Erin S (S2) who represented Woodfarm at the Scottish Schools West Region trials in October. We look forward to monitoring their progress in the coming weeks.



Sticking with Football, our junior girls' team coached by Mrs Lynch, secured 2 wins and one draw in the first round of the East Renfrewshire tournament. Looking forward to watching their progress over the next few rounds.

The S1 boys recorded a narrow 1v0 win over local rivals St Ninian's B in very challenging conditions. We are hoping they can maintain this momentum for some time



Our U18's boys team also secured a convincing victory against Barrhead High School in their first match of the season with Fraser A and Ryan M competing for top goal scorer already. Well done boys.



Our Higher Dance troop enjoyed a live performance of Chicago at the Kings Theatre in September, a little Bob Fosse never goes astray.

And finally, a massive congratulations to Chloe F (S3) who has been selected to represent Scotland at the Cheerleading World Championships in Florida in April. A fantastic achievement in itself, however it's all the more special for Chloe as she has been selected not once, but 3 times this year. Chloe will represent 3 Scottish teams, Youth Pom, Youth Hip Hop and Junior Hip Hop. I look forward to reporting the updates in a future edition.

