

# PARENTS' MAIL

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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

It has been an absolute joy to see so many students receiving awards for achievement at our Y7, Y8 and Y9 Awards Evenings. We have given out a record number of achievement points this year, recognising outstanding work and effort. At the same time, behaviour points have been at an all-time low, reflecting students' excellent behaviour in lessons.

It has also been great to celebrate our students' achievement in sport, art and music. This year, Woodham Sports Academy Presentation Evening at Hardwick Hall was a wonderful evening. Not only was the guest speaker, former boxer and current GB boxing coach, Amanda Coulson, inspirational so too were our students. I find it hard to believe that one school can produce so many exceptional athletes who are competing at national level. I am equally amazed by the quality and variety of work exhibited in the Y11 Art exhibition. No wonder students are proud of their work.

At Woodham Academy, we firmly believe that education is so much more than just academic achievement. It's about helping young people to grow in confidence and to become independent adults, able to take their place in the community. I know how proud parents were as their sons and daughters arrived at Redworth Hall for their prom. It was a lovely evening and a fitting way to say goodbye to a fantastic year group.

As the end of term approaches, it is also time to say goodbye to some members of staff who are leaving us: Mrs Davison (RE/examinations officer), Mrs Drew (English), Miss Hughff (Student Support), Mrs Marsh (English), Miss Moody (Design and Technology), Mr. Steele (Maths), Miss Barrass (Cover) and Miss Wood (French). In September, we will welcome some new members of staff: Miss Aitken (History), Mr. Atkinson (Maths), Miss Gray (English), Miss Halpin (Behaviour Support) and Miss Orr (English). Miss Aitken and Mr. Atkinson have both been here this year as trainee teachers and have recently qualified with an outstanding grading. We are delighted to be able to keep them.

Finally, I would like to wish all students a happy and relaxing summer holiday.

C. Forsyth  
Headteacher

## Calendar 2017 – 2018 School Terms and Holidays

### Autumn Term 2017

<b>Monday</b>	<b>4th</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>Professional Development Day school closed to students</b>
Tuesday	5th	September	School Year begins – Year 7 only
Wednesday	6th	September	School Year begins – All Students
Friday	20th	October	School closes for half term
Monday	30th	October	School re-opens
<b>Friday</b>	<b>24th</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>Professional Development Day school closed to students</b>
Friday	22nd	December	Autumn term ends

### Spring Term 2018

Monday	8th	January	Spring term starts
Friday	9th	February	School closes for half term
Monday	19th	February	School re-opens
Thursday	29th	March	Spring term ends

### Summer Term 2018

Monday	16th	April	Summer term begins
Monday	7th	May	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday	8th	May	School re-opens
Friday	25th	May	School closes for half term
Monday	4th	June	School re-opens
<b>Friday</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>June</b>	<b>Professional Development Day school closed to students</b>
Friday	20th	July	Summer term ends

## Save the Date

*Write them in your phone or stick them on the fridge so you don't forget.*

Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	-	School open for Year 7 only
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	-	School re-opens for all students
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	-	Open day for parents (details to follow)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	-	Year 6 Open evening 6pm – 8pm
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	-	Year 9 and Year 10 Curriculum Evening 6pm
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Year 7 tutor evening 4pm – 7pm
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm – 7pm
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	-	Year 6 Friendship day 10.00am – 12pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Rewards trip from 2.45pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	-	Christmas Concert 7pm

## ➔ Parentpay

Thank you to everyone who has activated their Parentpay account and keeps their child's balance in credit. We recommend that everyone checks their child's dinner money account at the beginning of each week to ensure they have sufficient funds to purchase their lunch for the coming week.

If you have not activated your child's account, please do as soon as possible as the school no longer accepts cash or cheques. You will need it to pay for trips, revision guides, Prom etc. as well as receiving an emailed copy of the Parent Mailing and other school correspondence. A copy of your login details is available from school if required – please contact Mrs Pyrah.

If you require any assistance please contact school.

Your support in using ParentPay will help the school enormously.



## ➔ Contact Us

If you need to get in touch with us urgently, please telephone 01325 300328. If we can't resolve a problem immediately, someone will call you back the same day. Please be aware that staff are often unavailable during the school day due to teaching commitments and will return your call after 3:15pm. If you need to report that your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please telephone school before 8:50am.

## ➔ Date of next Parents' Mailing

Our next mailing will be Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October

## Student Support

**Lost Property**-Lost property around the school is handed in at Student Support. This could be anything from a pencil case to keys, coats, trainers etc. We have an extensive collection of lost property at the moment. Please could we ask students and parents to have a look at home to see if they are missing any items. Please ensure names are put in your child's items where possible as this will help us get the item back to your child as quickly as possible. Please encourage your child to visit Student Support if they have lost anything as items not collected by the end of each term will either be donated to charity or used in school where appropriate.

**Medication** -Any students who have medication locked away in student support need to collect it by the end of term. Any medication not collected will be disposed of.

**Lunch Time Pass** -We encourage all students to stay on site during lunchtime however we recognise that some parents prefer that their child returns home for lunch. If you wish your child to go home for lunch please ask them to collect an application from student support and return it to Mrs Scaife no later than 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

Students, whose parents have given permission for them to go home for lunch to the care of a responsible adult, should leave site at 12.30pm and not return until 1.10pm. **Under no circumstances are students to roam the streets, hang around in groups or be found in the local vicinity, or the local shops. Should students be found in such areas, on the first occasion the pass will be removed for 1 week, the second occasion for 1 month and the third occasion the pass will be removed for the rest of the academic year.** There will be active surveillance of the area and students who leave school without permission will face disciplinary action. Until we hear from you we will assume that your child is to stay in school for their lunch.

Students who have requested a lunchtime pass will be issued with a school pass with photo ID. Should students forget or lose their pass, permission to leave school will be revoked until a pass can be produced or until a replacement is issued. **Students will not be allowed to leave school without a valid pass.**



## **Homework**

Firstly, a huge thanks for all of your support with our KS3 homework system this year. It has been very successful in supporting students' learning and we are exceptionally pleased about our high completion rates which are usually between 94% and 98% each week. We have been listening to comments from yourselves and students to make sure that we can refine the system even further therefore we will be making some minor changes. Departments will be looking closely at the variety of tasks they assign to students to ensure that they are suitable and will broaden and extend students' learning. We will also be looking at different ways more practical subjects can set homework to make it easier for students to complete this type of homework without the requirement to print off additional resources. The homework cycle is outlined below. As Y9 students have selected their options, they will no longer be part of the KS3 cycle of homework. Homework will be set on an individual basis by class teachers. This will be set weekly.

<b>HOMEWORK CYCLE FOR YEARS 7 &amp; 8</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Maths</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Technology</b>
<b>RE</b>	<b>Computing</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>Geography</b>

On the rare occasions where a student fails to complete a piece of homework, they will be set a break time detention in order to complete the homework. On the very rare occasions where a student fails to complete more than one piece of homework, you will receive a text informing you that they will be placed on detention after school for 40 minutes in order for them to complete their missing homework. It will be the responsibility of parents to provide transport home for students if they receive a detention, except in exceptional circumstances.



## **Parents of Year 11 Students**

The 2017/18 academic year will see the introduction of an additional Year 11 Parents' Evening. Following normal pattern of Parents' Evenings for Year 11 the first Parents' Evening will be on 11<sup>th</sup> October from 4.00pm-7.00pm. The main purpose will be to set out the year ahead and build towards final GCSE examinations. However, from listening to parental feedback, it was clear that both parents and students would value some additional information regarding key areas for development nearer the time of the final exams. As a result, on the 18<sup>th</sup> April, Woodham Academy will host a second Parents' Evening for Year 11, which will include the usual round of individual teacher appointments, but also some bespoke sessions designed around revision techniques, coping with stress and how to prepare properly for the summer exam series.



## **New Head of Learning in Year 11**

The 2017/18 academic year will see Mr Spoor stay on as Head of Learning for Year 11. Mr Spoor has significant experience of working with Year 11's in what is their most important year at school.

Please direct any issues regarding progress and examination for Year 11 to him accordingly.

## ➔ **Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 Tutor Teams 2017 - 2018**

### **Year 7**

Head of Year – **A Abson**

<b>L McAulay</b>	30
<b>R Gore</b>	31
<b>H Daniels</b>	32
<b>M Godfrey/C Cheverall</b>	33
<b>R Gales</b>	34

### **Year 8**

Head of Year – **P Groves**

<b>L Atkinson (was 7KL)</b>	53
<b>G Byrne (was 7AA)</b>	151
<b>F Raitt (was 7JM)</b>	116
<b>A Greaves</b>	55
<b>S Oswald (was 7DW)</b>	15
<b>K Orr (was 7HD)</b>	19
<b>R Woolley</b>	142

### **Year 9**

Head of Year – **V Fawcett**

<b>A Billyard</b>	155
<b>D Smith (was 8AT)</b>	112
<b>E Gray (was 8RG)</b>	11
<b>K Hall</b>	66
<b>M Jambon</b>	40
<b>S Elliott (was 8JS)</b>	152
<b>J Coley</b>	42

Parents of students who will be in Years 9, 10 and 11 in September will be notified by letter as to whose tutor group their child will be in. For Years 10 and 11, this is due to the academic tutoring system, this is explained later in the mailing. For Year 9 it is a result of an additional tutor group in the year group as we have had so many students join us this year. To ensure the correct support is available and to keep numbers as small as possible we have added an extra tutor group to this year group. Mrs Fawcett will send out a separate letter to inform you of whose tutor group your child will be in from September.

## ➔ **Year 9 and Year 10 Curriculum Evening**

26<sup>th</sup> September will see a curricular evening for all parents of Year 9 and Year 10 students. This will allow parents to visit all the different subject areas which their children are studying to get an insight into what students need to know for their GCSEs. This will include topics that are being studied, a reference to study skills required and any extra information that we may have by September about the new grading systems for GCSEs.

This will be a valuable evening for Parents in order to help them support their children over the next two and three years to maximise all opportunities for students to perform at their best.



## **Year 10 and Year 11 Tutor Groups 2017-2018**

From September, students in Years 10 & 11 will be allocated a tutor based on their academic needs. This system of 'Academic Tutoring' has worked successfully for the past 5 years in Year 11 and we now intend to operate the same system in Year 10.

Daily tutor time will be used to help support students' achievement in their academic subjects. During this time the group will have the opportunity to access extra support, which would be supervised and led by subject specialists. This will be in the form of independent study or directed activities led by the tutor.

Throughout the year there will be some flexibility in the groupings to accommodate students whose prioritised needs change as the course develops. In the first instance, Year 9 and 10 exam data will be used to determine the tutor group that they will be placed in for September.

### **Year 10 Tutor Teams**

Mrs E Kell	<b>Head of Learning Year 10</b>
Miss N Peskin	10NPe
Miss A Thomas	10AT
Miss S Aitken	10SA
Mr White	10TW
Miss H Kent	10HK
Mrs A Keenan (Miss A Powell)	10AKN

### **Year 11 Tutor Teams**

Mr N Spoor	<b>Head of Learning Year 11</b>
Mrs M I'Anson	11MI
Miss A Mulhearn	11Amu
Mr A Jenkins	11AJ
Mr J Zielinski	11JZ
Mr D Lycourinos	11DL
Mr D Walker	11DW
Mrs K Harrison	11KH
Mr J Coley	11JC

Students will be informed by letter as to which tutor group they are in.

***If you do have any questions please contact the relevant Head of Learning.***

## → Exams

GCSE results will be available for Year 11 students from **10.00am** on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2017. If students are unable to come in person, they may give a letter of authorisation to someone else to collect on their behalf, or provide a stamped addressed envelope to have their results posted to them.

Year 10 students who wish to collect their English Language results may come in at **11.00am** on the same day; alternatively results will be given out on the first day of the Autumn term.

## → Year 8 French Study Visit July 2017

The Year 8 trip to sunny France is fast approaching and excitement is mounting! Thank you to all parents for attending the Parents' Information Meeting and I hope you found it informative.

I would like to remind you to please hand in all passports, Consent Forms, EHIC health insurance cards and Euros as soon as possible if you have not already done so. These can be handed in to Mrs Pyrah at break-time in Brancepeth dining hall. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July at 23.45.

## → Year 7

On the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2017, Year 6 students attended Woodham Academy for a full day of lessons; sampling a range of subjects including Mathematics, English and Technology. All students participated and tried their best in every lesson and were a credit to their primary schools and parents. We look forward to welcoming the new cohort on their first day in September.

**Below are some key dates for our New Year 7 students and their Parents:**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017:** Year 7 first day at Woodham Academy. Students should assemble outside of the main school hall by 8.45 when they will be welcomed by their tutors.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Year 7 Tutor Evening (4pm -7pm)

There are a range of opportunities in the autumn term for potential new parents to find out more about Woodham Academy. Including:

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017:** Year 6 Open Evening (6pm – 8pm) – for all parents with a child in Year 6

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017:** Year 6 Open Day (from 9.30am)

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017:** Sports Academy Induction Evening (6.30pm-7.30pm)

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Year 6 Friendship Day (10.00 – 12pm)

Our Science team also have a range of exciting lessons planned for Year 5 and 6 students during their 'Woodham Sparkies' after school club. The dates for the first half term are: Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 and Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November (4.30pm – 6.30pm)

## ➔ **Schools' Physicist of the Year**

Congratulations to Logan Armstrong, who was awarded the Ogden Trust Schools' Physicist of the Year 2017. The award was presented by Professor Carlos Frenk at an event on the 20th June at Durham University. The award celebrates Logan's hard work and effort in his physics lessons this year.

The event was attended by Logan and his parents as well as Mr Jenkins and Mr Billyard. Mr Billyard said it was a wonderful evening; it was great to learn about cosmology from Prof Carlos Frenk and lovely to see Logan's hard work celebrated. He also added that the food wasn't bad either.



## **Science Club**

Each week a group of KS3 students meet in room 155 for science club. This is a great opportunity for the students to develop their experimental skills and to learn more about science. Many of our science club regulars have also helped out on open evenings and with the primary science club, Sparkies, held each half-term.

This year the science club have done a variety of activities from looking at how oxygen and nitrogen can be used to make rocket fuel, dissecting fish and hearts, investigating scientific drawing of large insects and arachnids such as tarantulas, scorpions and stick insects, stacking different densities of coloured water and making volcanoes.



Ask your science teacher for details on 2017/18 Science club in September.



## **GCSE Art Students**

Any students who have chosen to take Art as an option in September will require an A2 Art folder which will be used to store their portfolio of work throughout the GCSE in school. They will also require an A3 folder to carry homework to ensure it does not get damaged. Both of these folders can be purchased from the Art Department for a total cost of £5.00. Alternatively parents may wish to buy the folder elsewhere which is also a suitable option.

### **Art Sets**

The £20.00 Art set which has been very popular in the past will be available to buy in school when we return in September. These are beneficial for students but not essential. Details to follow later.





## Sports Leadership

Woodham Academy students have enjoyed demonstrating their excellent Sports Leadership skills over the last couple of weeks, as a number of different primary schools have attended sports events held and ran by the school, in conjunction with Sedgfield SSP.

### Year 5 Multi Skills Festival

This festival was attended by local primary schools from across the Newton Aycliffe area. A group of 20 Year 7 Woodham Academy leaders ran different stations that involved a variety of skills and specific sports, such as football, golf, athletics, SAQ skills and target practice. After leading their groups through a team warm up they confidently managed their different stations and encouraged the primary students to complete each sport to the best of their ability. An enjoyable morning was had by all!



### Quad Kids

This successful large scale event was once again run by Marie Walker, whose enthusiasm and outstanding organisational skills ensured that the event ran smoothly. It was supported by our Year 9 and Year 10 Leadership Academy students, alongside aspirational Year 7 Sports Leaders. The event was attended by 8 primary schools from across the wider partnership of Sedgfield Schools, including those from Bishop Auckland, Newton Aycliffe, Shildon, Sedgfield and Ferryhill.

Over 100 students competed in a wide range of fun and competitive Track and Field Athletics events, which were scored accordingly, with overall team and individual winners recognised at the end of the event. It was open to Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 students with girls and boys teams in each year group competing against each other.

Once again the quality of the leadership by our students was outstanding and recognised by the Sedgfield SSP staff and Marie herself. Their excellent demonstrations, encouragement and organisational skills allowed all pupils to enjoy and achieve highly in each event. The Year 9 and 10 Leadership Academy students did an excellent job of mentoring the Year 7 students, so that all of the events were fun, safe and challenging for all. Well done to all Woodham Academy Sports Leaders. We are very proud of you!





## More Able Academy

What a year it has been for our More Able Academy students! We've have had a visit to London, workshops for Muggles, the Big Deal competition and numerous university visits and speakers. We are looking forward to offering another fantastic year for our More Able Academy students.



Below is a brief outline of what we will be offering next academic year.

Term	Activities
Term 1	<p><b>Sage Conference</b> exploring routes into higher education</p> <p><b>Institute of Physics lecture</b></p> <p><b>Yr9 Durham Day</b> exploring life a Durham University</p> <p><b>Durham Medical Day</b> focusing on routes into the medical profession</p> <p><b>Institute of Physics Christmas lecture</b></p>
Term 2	<p><b>Durham Unwrapped</b> to gain an insight into university life and to learn more about future progression options</p> <p><b>Yr7 Workshop</b> - Muggles</p> <p><b>Yr8 Workshop</b> – What is a book?</p> <p><b>Yr9 Law school</b></p> <p><b>Yr7/8 Workshop</b></p> <p><b>Yr10 Law school</b></p> <p><b>Big Deal York</b>, a national business and enterprise project</p> <p><b>Yr9 Workshop</b> focusing on comparative religions</p> <p>Science department Science festival</p>
Term 3	<p><b>Durham STEM challenge</b> (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)</p> <p><b>Newcastle Medicine and Dentistry Day</b></p> <p><b>Institute of Physics Ambassadors Yr7</b></p> <p><b>International Trip</b></p>

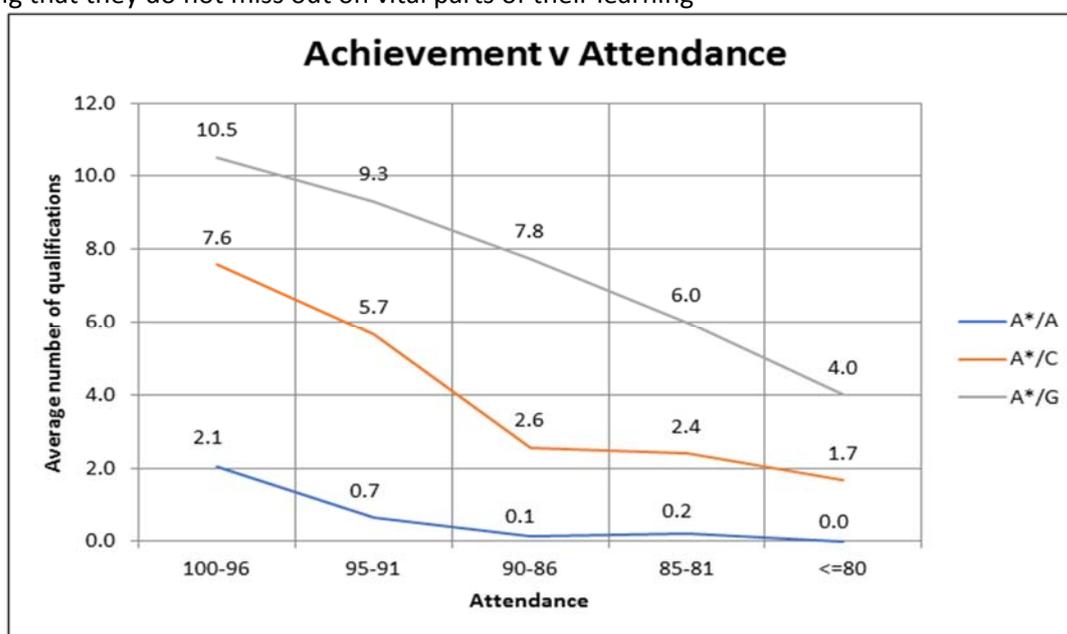
This will all be supported by a programme of extra-curricular activities offered after school to support students including effective revision, politics and art appreciation.



## The Importance of High Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to achievement at school. The chart below is a clear demonstration of this. As a school we are always looking to improve the attendance of young people in order to maximize their chances of success. As a result we do not authorise holidays during term time unless there are extenuating circumstances for the request. Please be advised that an unauthorised holiday of seven days or more can make you liable to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice from the Local Authority.

We also ask that all those who are absent from school catch up on the work that they have missed during their absence. This is done through the form of a 'catch up' card. This will be given to students by their Tutor and they will be asked to visit all their teachers whose lessons they have missed during their absence to collect the work they will need to catch up on. They will be given until the following Friday to complete this work, presenting it to their teacher and getting the card signed off to then show to their tutor, therefore demonstrating that all work has been completed. This will help to support all students in ensuring that they do not miss out on vital parts of their learning



There are also a variety of levels of attendance that would initiate the school monitoring the attendance of a young person more closely. In some circumstances it may be necessary to ask for medical evidence if a student is absent from school. If this is the case then you will be informed by letter. We judge attendance in the following categories:

Attendance Percentage	Level
98% – 100%	<b>Outstanding</b>
97%	<b>Excellent</b>
95% - 96.9%	<b>Good</b>
91% - 94.9%	<b>Below average</b>
90% - 90.9%	<b>Requires improvement</b>
90% and below	<b>Unsatisfactory</b> – considered as a persistent absentee by government guidelines



Firstly we would like to thank you all for your help and support throughout this year with the new behaviour system. The changes made were significant but students have responded well. Since implementing the new system behaviour in the school has improved. The number of behaviour points given out is currently 50% below on this stage last year. There has been a reduction in the use of the behaviour room and fixed term exclusions. However, most importantly students are happier in lessons and making very good progress. As a school we constantly strive to improve our systems to benefit the academic achievement of our students. Consequently we are making some minor adjustments to the behaviour system next year. These are listed below:-

- **C1 will now be recorded and an accumulation of 5 or more given throughout the week will result in an automatic C2 and 20 minute detention.**
- **3 or more C1s in a day will lead to a C2.**
- **20+ behaviour points will result in a report being given to students and a meeting will be requested with parents.**
- **Increased scrutiny of corridor and out of lesson behaviour. Any misbehaviour will lead to a C2a sanction and a 30 minute detention.**
- **If there are C1's issued for uniform in one day or 5 in one week this will result in an automatic C2a (30 minute detention).**

**Due to the success of the new system, there is no longer a need to provide transport for students who have received an after school detention (both behaviour and homework detentions). It will be the responsibility of parents to provide transport home for students if they receive a detention, except in exceptional circumstances.**



## Rewards

The new rewards system like the behaviour and homework has proven to be extremely successful. This year has seen more students rewarded. Trips have run to the Metro centre and Planet Leisure at Christmas, Infinite Air at Easter and more recently to Lightwater Valley. The Lightwater Valley trip saw nearly 300 students being rewarded. As a school we are very proud that so many have worked so hard this year. The points that enable students to access the trip are looked at on a termly basis.

Any behaviour points given are taken away from achievement points and it is the net total which enables students to access the trips. We run the thresholds on a termly basis, meaning students will need to hit a required net point threshold. We also require an average attendance of 97% or above to access the trips available. Due to the way achievement points are distributed through the school threshold will be higher for students in Years 7 and 8 than those in Years 9,10 and 11. Having consulted students and staff the following trips are planned for next year:

Trip date	Venue
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December (after school)	KS3 – Planet Leisure KS4 – Metro centre
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March (after school)	Infinite Air, Durham
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Flamingo Land, North Yorkshire



## **Assessment Cycles**

Following the success of this year's Assessment Cycle, Woodham Academy will again be using a structured programme to check the progress of your son / daughter as they move through the school. The Assessment Cycle will take place 4 times across the year, with students being assessed in all subject areas of the school.

Correct preparation for these assessments is vital in order that students demonstrate their full understanding of key topics and content. In addition, developing good habits associated with exam preparation and revision will stand them in good stead for their final GCSEs in Year 11.

The full assessment calendar will be linked to the school website in September, but the following dates feature in the first term:

**Year 7 - Week beginning 11th September**

**Year 8 - Week beginning 2nd October**

**Year 9 - Week beginning 9th October**

**Year 10 - Week beginning 30th October**

**Year 11 - A two week mock exam period beginning 6th November**

Following any assessment cycle, teachers, heads of department and head of learning conduct a full review of results. Intervention is put in place accordingly in addition to the use of rewards via assemblies.