



Update 3rd July 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Yesterday saw the release of the 'Return to School' documentation from the Department for Education. In addition, Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) spoke in the House of Commons about the government's intention for all children to return to school in September. We now have some clarity and can begin a planning process. I know that many of you will have questions, but as you have done in recent weeks, please wait until I release more detailed information. Rest assured that the school have already begun to plan for the safe return of every student to Woodham. I hope to release the plan before the summer holidays, but at least parents now know that their child will be coming back to school. The next few weeks will see an ever-increasing amount of comment from politicians, families, teachers, unions and definitely Facebook. I've always asked that you wait for Woodham to release our information and don't listen to hearsay. Our plan will be specific to this site and our community, and as a result, may well differ from other schools. At the heart of everything we do is safety and a high quality of education. This will continue.

General information / updates

Tues 1st Sept - PD Day for staff. No children in school on this day.
Wed 2nd Sept - Year 7 only in school.
Thursday 3rd Sept - All students return.

Week beginning 13th July

The week beginning 13th July was scheduled to be the final week of the school term. We had timetabled this to be an activities week, with each year group taking part in a variety of events and trips, designed to develop their overall educational experience. Unfortunately, this will have to be postponed until next year. However, this year we have decided that for this week, no online learning will be set and instead, it will make way for 'virtual activities week'. These activities will be set via email and doddle and we are encouraging families to share photos with their Head of Learning once they have completed an activity.

Reports to parents

Year 9 and 10 reports are in the process of being checked and will be sent out to parents / carers in the next few weeks.

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School office

The school office remains open throughout the school holidays. The school number is 01325 300328. You can also use info@woodham.org.uk for additional queries.

Please **do not reply to text messages sent out from school**. The texts themselves are generated through a computer and not a phone. When you reply, they often fail to arrive on our screens.

Tutor Groups 2020-21

Year 8 Sep 2020		Year 9 Sep 2020	
Current Tutor	September 2020	Current Tutor	September 2020
7LM →	8EG (Miss E Gray)	8RW→	9RW (Miss R Wooley)
7RGa →	8MG (Mrs M Godfrey)	8JC→	9DW (Mr D Walker)
7RGo→	8HK (Miss H Kent)	8SO→	9SO (Miss S Oswald)
7LA→	8LA (Mr L Atkinson)	8AG→	9BD (Miss B Dixon)
7KW→	8JD (Mr J Dixon)	8MG→	9DS (Mr D Smith)
7MS→	8CC (Miss C Cheverall)	8KO→	9MJ (Mr Jambon)
7GH→	8GL (Miss Leybourne)		
7ABa→	8AG (Mr A Greaves)		

Student tutor groupings will remain the same for Year 7 going into Year 8. There will be some slight adjustments made to a small number of students in Year 8 going into Year 9. Parents will be informed in writing before the end of term if this will affect their child.

Years 10 and 11

In years 10 & 11, as in previous years, students will be allocated to a tutor group in order for them to receive targeted support from a subject specialist. Using all information about students, tutor groups will be allocated based on this specialist support. Unlike in previous years, it is hoped that students will stay with their allocated tutor for the academic year and would only be moved in exceptional circumstances. Parents will be informed of the child's tutor by text message by 17th July.

Year 10 Sep 2020		Year 11 Sep 2020	
10AT	Miss A Thomas	11JC	Mr J Coley
10JG	Mr J Godfrey	11MI	Mrs M I'Anson
10TW	Mr T White	11KO	Miss K Orr
10DL	Dr D Lycourinos	11AJ	Mr A Jenkins
10KH	Mrs K Harrison	11SDO	Mrs S Down
10NJ	Mrs N Jenkins	11AMU	Mrs A Mulhearn
		11JZ	Mr J Zielinski
		11SA	Miss S Aitken

And finally...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyiPHC_VQFY

I always find it amazing how few films Mrs. Dickinson has watched. The list included Top Gun & Star Wars! One of the many I have encouraged her to watch is Good Will Hunting. It was released in 1997 and still resonates with me today. I was just about to start my teaching career when I first saw the film and some of the messages and ideas have stayed with me throughout my career. Generally speaking, it's about a genius called Will Hunting, who, through the guidance and positive attitude of his mentor (a teacher), played by Robin Williams, realises his potential, becomes a better person and flourishes in the world of mathematics.

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As teachers, seeing a student flourish and achieve their potential is the ultimate. It's why we come to work and why we all love the job. For some, this is easier than others. I rarely get annoyed or frustrated, but one thing that does 'press my buttons' is this society and social media obsession that all children are poorly behaved, lazy and unpleasant. This couldn't be further from the truth in my opinion. The vast majority of children, young people and adults for that matter are decent human beings. We are quick to forget this. With so many negatives appearing in our media and society, I feel one of the main roles within school (particularly from September) is positivity. We all have a duty of care to do this. To be frank, it's too easy to be negative and pessimistic. Let's all try and find the best in ourselves and others.

Good Will Hunting has a certificate of 15, so I encourage all age appropriate readers to give it a go.

Stay safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.P. Bell". The letters are cursive and connected.

Andrew Bell
Headteacher