

PARENTS' MAIL



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woodham.org.uk



Woodham Academy – Achievement for All

February 2019

Headteacher Christine Forsyth writes....

Last week I showed a teacher from another school around Woodham. Everywhere we went, we saw happy, smiling students who were keen to learn, asking questions and genuinely proud of their work. What we didn't see was a single child off-task, never mind misbehaving. The excellent attitudes we are seeing in the classroom are translating into very good grades across all subjects. I have no doubt that the current Year 11 will achieve a record number of top grades.



Year 10 have returned this year with real determination and are making exceptional progress. Similarly, Years 7-9 are all ahead of target. I would like to thank all of you for your support: attendance is up by 1% on last year, almost all homework is completed and handed in on time, more parents than ever are attending parents' evenings. These things all make a big difference. I am proud of the school, our students and our staff.

I am pleased that governors have begun the process of recruiting my successor. As we approach the summer, I hope to be able to work alongside a new headteacher who will continue to take Woodham Academy forward, so that we give all the students here the best possible education.





Save the Date

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

Wednesday 13 th February	-	Year 8 Options Evening 6pm-8pm
Wednesday 6 th March	-	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
Wednesday 27 th March	-	Year 7 Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
Wednesday 24 th April	-	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm-7pm
Tuesday 11 th June	-	Year 5 Coffee Morning and Evening 9.30am and 6pm
Thursday 20 th June	-	Year 7 Celebration Evening 6pm-7pm
Wednesday 26 th June	-	Year 6 Transition Evening 6pm
Tuesday 16 th July	-	Year 8 Celebration Evening 6pm-7pm



Upcoming Events at Woodham Academy

Wednesday 27 th , 28th February, 1st March	-	Grease the Musical
Wednesday 13 th March	-	Woodham Sparkies Science 4pm-5.30pm
Monday 1 st April	-	Year 11 Photographs
Tuesday 2 nd April	-	Dance Showcase 7pm-9pm
29 th April – 3 rd May	-	Art Exams
Wednesday 8 th May	-	Woodham Sparkies Science 4pm- 5.30pm
11 th – 27 th June	-	Year 5 visits
Wednesday 19 th June	-	Woodham Sparkies Science 4pm-5.30pm
Thursday 27 th June	-	Year 6 Transition Day
Thursday 27 th June	-	Year 11 Prom from 6pm (Details to follow)
Monday 1 st July	-	Sport Academy Presentation Evening 7pm
Wednesday 3 rd July	-	Summer Concert 7pm
Monday 8 th – 12 th July	-	French Trip



Dates for Next Parents' Mailing

Thursday 16th May 2019

Thursday 11th July 2019

Calendar 2019 School Terms and Holidays

Spring Term 2019

Friday	15th	February	School closes for half term
Monday	25th	February	School re-opens
Friday	5th	April	Spring term ends

Summer Term 2019

Tuesday	23rd	April	Summer term begins
Monday	6th	May	School closed for May Bank Holiday
Tuesday	7th	May	School re-opens
Friday	24th	May	School closes for half term
Monday	3th	June	School re-opens
Friday	28th	June	Professional Development Day school closed to students
Friday	19th	July	Summer term ends
Monday	2nd	September	Professional Development Day school closed to students
Tuesday	3rd	September	School Year begins – Year 7 only
Wednesday	4th	September	School Year begins – All students



Upcoming Assessments at Woodham Academy

Date	Year
11th February - 15th February 2019	Year 7
25th February – 1st March 2019	Year 8
11th March – 22nd March 2019	Year 11 (Formal mocks for 2 weeks)
22nd April – 26th April 2019	Year 9
6th May – 10th May 2019	Year 10
5th June -7th June 2019	Year 7
10th June – 14th June 2019	Year 9
17th June – 27th June 2019	Year 10
1st July – 5th July 2019	Year 8



Specialist Day

Thursday 7th March 2019

Year 7 – Future Business Magnates (Careers)

- Full day activity in the main hall
- Working with representatives from the Future Business Magnates
- Developing team work skills
- Learning how to develop an idea
- Developing presenting techniques
- Improving confidence

Year 8 – Duck Day (DEBP) (Careers)

- An interactive experience where students are given the opportunity to engage in industry related tasks
- Opportunity to appreciate the changing demands of the market place and the need for companies to adapt to survive
- Designed to develop enterprise skills, communication, and teamwork
- Work will be completed and saved using a **STEP E-Booklet**
- CEIAG Advice in preparation for options (NCD)
- Engineering and careers (Bishop Auckland College)

Year 9 – Relationships and Sex Education

(Topics arranged through student consultation)

The day will begin with an introduction and setting up group agreements. Topics covered throughout the day will include:

- Positive friendships, developing good self-esteem, 'Love has No Limits' YouTube
- Personal boundaries, consent, recognising unsafe relationships, sexual exploitation and grooming, pregnancy and adoption, abortion, LGBT +, Pressure Pot
- Where to go for help or support
- Reflection/assessment

This will be done on a rotation timetable with each teacher delivering the same topic to a different tutor group. Certain topics will be covered by the school nurse and her team

Northumbria University Course pursuit (1 hour)

Year 10 – Government & Parliament (Citizenship)

- To develop students' understanding of government and parliament in the UK
- To recognise the different types of governments and societies around the world
- "Made in Northumbria" sessions 90 minutes

Year 11 – Subject support sessions

- An opportunity for extra subject specific support
- Students will spend the day working in subject areas where they require additional support to reach target grades

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 so 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 Parents 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.

Communications

As we are moving more towards communication via text messages and emails, could we please ask that you inform us of any changes to your contact details.

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. 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.

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. 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

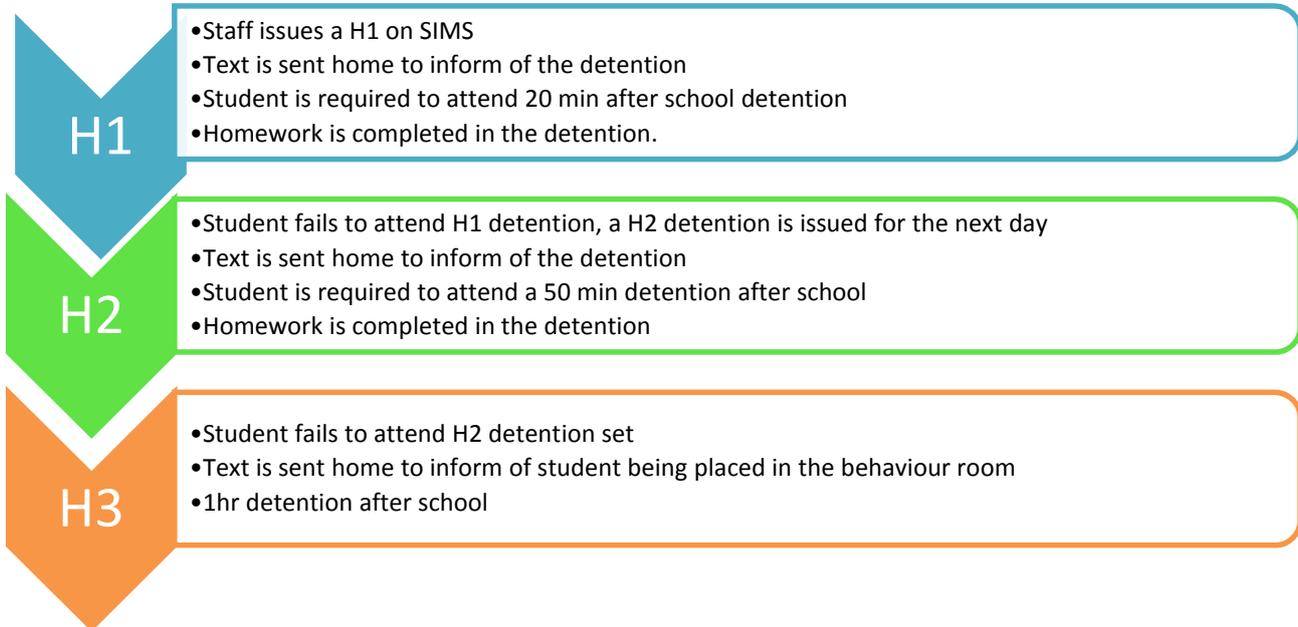
We would like to thank parents for their support in ensuring that students in all year groups make excellent progress by completing their homework to a high standard. Y7 and Y8 homework is regularly completed to a high standard and KS4 students (Y9-11) have also risen to the challenge of GCSE homework.

We would like to take this opportunity in the New Year to remind parents and students of the protocols for missed homework.

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, parents will receive a text informing you that the student 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.

Y7 and Y8 Homework Timetable

HOMEWORK CYCLE FOR YEARS 7 & 8			
1	2	3	4
Maths	English	Maths	English
Science	French	Science	French
Music	Art	History	Technology
RE	Computing	PE	Geography



I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of your support in ensuring high levels of homework completion by all students.

Woodham Sparkies Primary Science Club

Woodham Sparkies Science Club is open to all year 5 and 6 students. Students complete practical science sessions throughout the year.

TIME	DATE	SESSION
4.00-5.30pm	Wednesday 13th March 2019	Science Bake Off - Chemistry
4.00-5.30pm	Wednesday 8th May 2019	Designer Animals - Biology
4.00-5.30pm	Wednesday 19th June 2019	Celebration Evening Rocket School – Physics

Please note: If attending for the first time parents/guardian need to sign permission paperwork at the start of the sessions. Parents are also invited to attend the celebration evening in June. To book your place, telephone 01325 300328 or e-mail info@woodham.org.uk

Rewards at Woodham Academy

Students will gain individual day-to-day recognition through the collection of achievement points. These will be awarded for good work, behaviour and effort. Further points can be achieved for equipment checks and representing the school in a variety of activities. Students will gain termly recognition through weekly rewards, monthly reward weeks, reward trips and rewards assemblies, in which students will be given the required parameters for thresholds to access the trips available. Any behaviour points given are taken away from achievement points and it is the net total which enables students to access the trips. The thresholds will run on a termly basis, meaning students will need to hit a required net point threshold.

Weekly Rewards:-

Students from each tutor group are nominated for a hot chocolate and reward postcard.

Monthly Rewards:-

Head of Departments, Heads of Learning and Behaviour Welfare Worker nominate students from every group to receive a reward at break time, where students will come to the boardroom to receive a cake break with a senior member of staff.

Termly Rewards:-

Trip date	Venue
Friday 29th March	Cinema experience
Friday 28 th June	Local theme park

Year Group	Threshold
Year 7	60 net points and 97% attendance or above
Year 8	50 net points and 97% attendance or above
Year 9	45 net points and 97% attendance or above
Year 10	40 net points and 97% attendance or above
Year 11	35 net points and 97% attendance or above

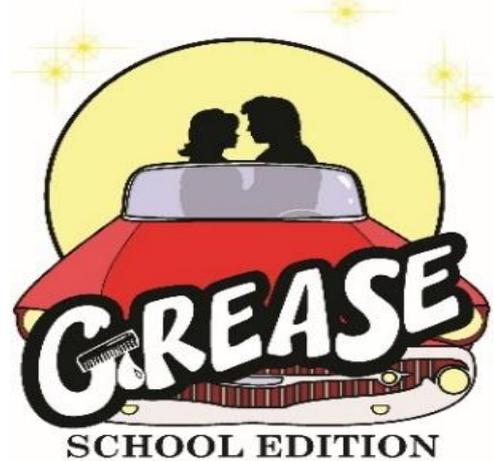


Grease is the word at Woodham Academy

Following on from last year's overwhelming success of 'School of Rock', students will be taking to the stage on February 27th, 28th and 1st March to perform 'Grease'. Featuring all the hits from the 1978 hit film, the show promises to be a spectacular night of entertainment that you will not want to miss. The show will feature students from Year 7 through to Year 11.

Tickets are priced at £6 per adult and £4 for children/concessions and are available via Parentpay.

I am sure you can appreciate the huge amount of work that goes into producing a show of this size so we hope to see you there supporting the students.



Collection of GCSE Certificates

GCSE Certificates are still available to collect from reception from 9am until 4.00pm during term time.

Certificates are kept in school for 3 years from the date of the student leaving. After this time certificates will be destroyed. Students will then need to apply to the relevant exam boards for copy certificates for which there will be a cost per certificate.

Students who are unable collect their certificates in person can give written permission for someone else to collect them on their behalf. The letter must name who is going to pick up the certificates and be signed by the student. The person named in the letter must bring in some form of photographic identification.

All certificates must be signed for and checked by students or their nominated person.



Exam Contingency Day

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) have announced a contingency day for the Summer exams series 2019. The date that has been set aside as the '**Contingency Day**' is **Wednesday 26th June 2019**.

Therefore, in the event of a major disruption to scheduled exams, JCQ and/or the relevant awarding bodies may decide to postpone an exam to another date in the June 2019 exam series.

This means that any students sitting external examinations in June 2019 **must** be available from Monday 13th May 2019 up to and including Wednesday 26th June 2019 to sit any exams that had to be postponed.

Please do not book any holidays until after Wednesday 26th June 2019.

➔ Year Group Information at Woodham Academy

➔ Year 7

At the end of the last Assessment Cycle, Year 7 students enjoyed well deserved rewards including a trip to the bowling alley and a disco. The next Progress Check (PC3) will take place week commencing 11th February and the Year 7 Parents' Evening will be held on Wednesday March 27th from 4pm-7pm. This will give you a fantastic opportunity to meet with your child's subject teachers and discuss any queries you may have.

Several Year 7 students also attended Durham University to discover 'What is a Book' and examine World War 2 artefacts. The students involved thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. There are more university visits planned for students throughout the year.

Congratulations again to **7HD** for achieving the highest attendance with 98.42% a fantastic achievement. Expectations from the local authority is that a student's attendance should be no less than 97%. We cannot stress enough the importance of excellent attendance and the impact it has on students' achievement and progress.

Mrs A. Abson (Head of Learning Year 7)

➔ Year 8

First of all, a big thank you to all parents who attended our last Parents' Evening on 15th January. It was great to see so many of you there and your support will have such a positive impact on your child's progress. I hope to see you all again at our next Year 8 evening which is Options Evening. This will take place on **Wednesday 13th February** and will be an opportunity for you and your child to explore the various options that are available for GCSE studies. There will be the opportunity to speak to subject staff and ask any questions that you may have. Further details regarding this evening will be coming out over the next few weeks.

Year 8 students continue to have good attendance. A special well done to the 50 students who will be awarded with a 100% attendance postcard at our next Rewards Assembly. Year 8 students understand the importance of attendance and this continued good attendance is having a positive impact on progress. **8SE** should continue to be especially proud of themselves as they still have the highest attendance in Year 8! Keep it up Year 8!

In the lead up to February half term, Year 8 students are busy preparing for their next assessments which will begin on **25th February**, the week after the half term break. They have all been revising well so far, and we ask you to encourage your child to revise during the half term break. They will have all the revision materials they need. If any student feels they would like to take advantage of our Homework Club to continue this revision at school, the Learning Centre is open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunch time and every night after school (**Term time only**).

Mrs V. Fawcett (Head of Learning Year 8)

→ Year 9

As Progress Check 2 approaches, students have been working closely with tutors to ensure that they are fully prepared for the next set of assessments for their chosen academic courses. During tutor time tutors have taught students valuable revision techniques and help them structure suitable revision resources to help them prepare fully for the upcoming assessments.

On February 12th all year 9 students will be receiving their injections Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio and Meningitis booster injections within school. To ensure all students are able to have these injections we have sent out leaflets and text messages to ensure all parents know how to register their child for the injections.

Mr P. Groves (Head of Learning Year 9)

→ Year 10

Year 10 continue to make good progress this year. We have seen improvements across behaviour, attendance and, more importantly, a rise in attainment. As you know, Year 10 had a series of mock exams just after Christmas, and the results of these were promising. I am pleased to report that following another series of assessments that the Year 10 are continuing to make improvements.

As Head of Learning for Year 10, I am confident that our students will continue to improve across all areas needed to obtain good results. Namely, good attendance; good behaviour and a strong desire to do better.

Mr N. Spoor (Head of Learning Year 10)

→ Year 11

The Year 11 intervention sessions began on Monday 14th January. All students have been allocated a series of sessions, based upon teachers' requests. The sessions themselves take an all new format, where group sizes should be reasonably small, allowing staff and students to work more specifically on areas of need.

Furthermore, the smaller groups allow for interaction between teachers and students, giving more time to address misconceptions. The attendance to date has been over 75% of the year group, which highlights how well Year 11 value this intervention. Once again, as is implied in the graphs linked to attendance the data shows that students who attend these sessions gain on average 1 grade higher than those who do not.

Are you aware of the sessions that your son / daughter should be attending? If not, please contact Mrs Kell

→ **Upcoming Key Dates for Year 11**

March 7th - Specialist Day - focussed sessions for Year 11 based around key subject content / coursework

March 11th - Mock exams begin - **Timetable Attached**

April 23rd - Mock results day

April 25th - GCSE Art exams begin

May 1st - French exams begin

May 13th - GCSE exam series begins

June 26th - GCSE exams finish

Mrs E.Kell (Head of Learning Year 11)

 **March Mock Timetable 2019**

Mock Exams March 2019	Monday 11 th March	Tuesday 12 th March	Wednesday 13 th March	Thursday 14 th March	Friday 15 th March
1	Science Chemistry 1 Triple (1h 45m) Trilogy (1h 15m)	Science Physics 1 Triple (1h 45m) Trilogy (1h 15m)	Science Biology 2 Triple (1h 45m) Trilogy (1h 15m)	Science Chemistry 2 Triple (1h 45m) Trilogy (1h 15m)	Science Physics 2 Triple (1h 45m) Trilogy (1h 15m)
2					
3	French Reading F (45m)	Geography Unit 1 (1h)	French Listening H (45m)	French Listening F (35m)	Geography Unit 2(1h)
4					
5					
6	Creative iMedia (1h 15m) Music (1h 45m) (R33)	History Super Powers and Normans (1h 45m)	Religious Studies Paper 1 Christianity & Buddhism (1h 45m)	Computing Paper 1 Computer Systems (1h 30m)	History Germany (1h 20m)
7					

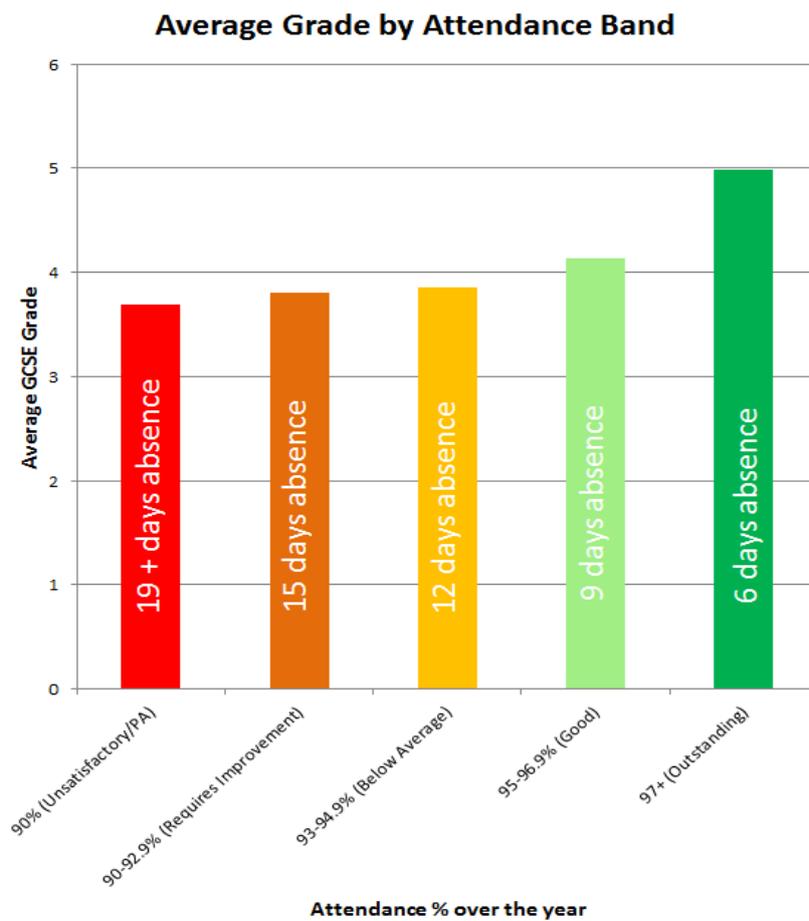
Mock Exams March 2019	Monday 18 th March	Tuesday 19 th March	Wednesday 20 th March	Thursday 21 st March	Friday 22 nd March
1	English Literature Paper 1 (1h 45m)	Maths 1 Paper 1 (non-calculator) (1h 30m)	Maths 2 Paper 2 (1h 30m)	English Language Paper 1 (1h 45m)	Maths 3 Paper 3 (1h 30m)
2					
3	Art	Art	French Writing (H&F) (1h)	French Reading H (1h)	History Crime and Punishment (1h 15m)
4					
5					
6	Art BTEC Music (1h)	Art	Religious Studies Paper 2 Themes (1h 45m)	Computing Paper 2 Computational Thinking (1h 30m)	Geography Unit 3 (1h 30m)
7					

attendance MATTERS



Parental engagement is something that we value highly at Woodham Academy. Parents' evenings are an excellent opportunity for teachers, parents and students to discuss progress and attitudes towards learning. We are always looking for ways to improve as a school and wherever possible, we like to provide evidence of how things are effective.

With this mind, the two graphs below show how improved attendance had a positive impact on final GCSE results last year. It is important to consider that the gaps in learning created by periods of absence are often crucial when sitting exams. What if a question concerned the content delivered in a lesson that was missed? Catch-up work is important, but will never replace the interaction with our teachers.



➔ Mathematics Update

In early March Y11 students will be sitting their GCSE mock exams. Ideally all students should have their own calculator. The earlier a student becomes comfortable with their own the easier they will find it to use in an exam situation.

The models we recommend are: Casio FX83GT Plus or FX85GT plus or similar scientific calculators. These are widely available.



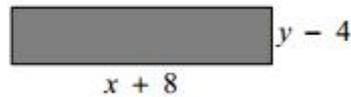
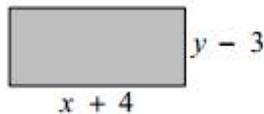
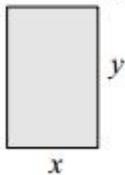
Woodham Maths Students enter the Intermediate Maths Challenge

The United Kingdom Maths Trust Intermediate Challenge is aimed at the most able mathematical students in Year 11 or below in England. Woodham is entering students from Y9 and Y10 for the challenge on February 7th

The Mathematical challenge aims to stimulate mathematical problem solving skills which are important in GCSE maths but the questions are in a very challenging context.

Try these two example questions below for fun!

19. The three rectangles shown below all have the same area.



What is the value of $x + y$?

- A 4 B 6 C 8 D 10 E 12
20. A particular integer is the smallest multiple of 72, each of whose digits is either 0 or 1.
How many digits does this integer have?
- A 4 B 6 C 8 D 10 E 12

Woodham Academy Football Fixtures 2019

Date	Opposition	Venue	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
26/02/19	UTC	Home				✓
12/03/19	Staindrop	Home	✓	✓		✓
19/03/19	Greenfield	Home	✓	✓	✓	✓
03/04/19	King James	Home	✓	✓	✓	
TBC	Whitworth Park					
TBC	St Johns	Away				

U12 and U13 Netball Fixtures 2019

Date	Venue	Year 7 & 8
Thursday 14 th February	AWAY VS St. Johns	✓
T.B.C.	AWAY VS Teesdale	*
T.B.C.	AWAY VS Whitworth	*
Mon 11 th March	AWAY VS King James	✓
Thursday 4 th April	AWAY VS Sedgefield	✓
Tuesday 26 th March	HOME VS Greenfield	✓

Woodham Academy will transport students to away fixtures approximate times are 3.15pm-5pm. However, students **MUST** return the EV4 form that they have been given in order to be able to transfer to away fixtures. Practice is held on **Tuesday** lunchtimes from **12.30pm-1.00pm**. All Year 7 and Year 8 students are welcome. TBC on the fixture list means to be confirmed as we are still awaiting schools to confirm that they are entering a team into the league. We will confirm dates to students as soon as possible.

The PE department would like to congratulate Marissa and Kally Boon who recently completed in the County Durham Area Cross Country Championships. The event was held at Barnard Castle school and both girls represented the South West Durham team, having already qualified from a previous event earlier in the term. Against tough competition and over a challenging course Marissa came a very respectable 22nd and Kally came 42nd.

What an excellent achievement girls, very well done!