Since our summer newsletter of July 2013 an amazing amount has been achieved at Woking High School. On 1 August Woking High School became an Academy. This was something that the whole school community had been discussing for some time. We were delighted to receive the final approval and conversion documents during the summer which meant we could return this year with a new status. To date, whilst Academy legislation and systems have placed additional demands on our Finance department, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of this department for their hard work, it has already given us greater freedoms and opportunities which are allowing us to make decisions which are more directly appropriate to Woking High School and our students’ needs. Of course it has also been very important to us to maintain our special “Woking High School ethos” and the values which we so rightly cherish and you will be well aware that many aspects of our school, including the school name, uniform and teaching day, have remained the same.

Later in the summer holiday we received news that the class of 2013 had attained record breaking GCSE results. The Year 11 cohort gained the best results in the school’s history and deserve huge congratulations for this historic achievement. These results certainly placed them in a wonderful position to begin their post 16 studies and placements.

In the first week of this term, Woking High School received a visit from HMI Inspector, Sheena MacDonald, who conducted an Ofsted inspection focused on the provision the school makes for students whose particular needs require them to receive some lessons off site. During her two day visit, she toured the school, met key staff and students and visited some of our partner providers. The resulting report gave a very positive reflection of the excellent work carried out in school and with our partners to support this small but significant group of students and the Inspector commented that as a school we “go the extra mile”.

To read the report, click on the following link: http://www.wokinghigh.surrey.sch.uk/Documents/aboutus/Ofsted_sch.2013-14%20survey%20inspection%20alternative%20provision%20letter%20received%20270913.pdf

Our Ofsted visit was swiftly followed by a number of announcements from the Secretary of State for Education regarding early entry GCSEs, new GCSE accountability measures and changes to GCSE grading. From a school perspective announcements that are made in mid term are far from ideal, for in many ways the school curriculum and examination syllabuses are much like an ocean going tanker – their routes and pathways are carefully planned, well in advance, and it becomes a challenge to plot and steer a new course mid journey. However, at Woking High School we pride ourselves on making carefully considered decisions and taking choices which best suit our students’ needs, so these most recent announcements have been incorporated within our planning with less disruption than might have otherwise been the case.
This year our Open Mornings for parents and prospective students were even better attended than ever before and there was standing room only for the Principal’s address at our Open Evening on 8 October. The interest in and desire to be part of our school is very encouraging and we hope that all students who want a place at Woking High School for September 2014 will be successful, for it is these students who will join our fantastic school community and who will help to sustain it and build on our successes in future years.

Woking High School students and staff have been involved in many community events during this term. For some time now the school has been supported by the Coffee Club at St Mary’s Church. They donate funds on a monthly basis to our Young Carers and we are most grateful for this help. Our local Police (PCSO & NSO) also boosted funds for this school group over the summer when the proceeds from their Dunk Tank at the Horsell Village Show were donated to our Young Carers.

During September and October a small group of Textiles students worked with Miss Maley to produce a beautiful quilt, commissioned by Cllr A Roberts, Mayor of Woking. The quilt was designed as a gift for her counterpart in Le Plessis Robinson to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the twinning of the two towns. The resulting quilt was, quite literally, a work of art, as you can see from the photo below.

Recently I was delighted to meet and spend some time with Reverend Sarah Hayes the new vicar of St Mary’s, Horsell, who is really looking forward to continuing the strong relationship that exists between the school and the church. On that note, our D&T and Art students have created and decorated a beautiful Christmas tree for the St Mary’s Christmas tree festival and Horsell shoppers have been able to buy unique, personally designed Woking High School Christmas decorations at the Village Christmas Fair – all proceeds from the sale were shared between our D&T department and Friends of Woking High School funds. This added to the monies already raised by the FoWHS who, together with a team of dedicated staff, organized and held our first Table Top sale (see later article).

At Woking High School we know Christmas festivities have started when the Windband play at the Woking Christmas lights ceremony. This year the location for this event was the Town Square which was packed with Christmas shoppers who enjoyed some old favourites including Sleigh Ride, Carol of the Bells and I’m dreaming of a White Christmas. Sopranos Sophie Russell and Sara Hill led the audience in singing carols which included Hark the Herald, O come all Ye Faithful and Away in a Manger. The Windband once again played at the Combined Carol Service at St Mary’s Church and entertained us at our own Christmas concert ‘We’re Dreaming of a White Christmas’. At both of the latter events collections were made for charities and monies were also raised for the ‘Save the Children’ charity at our end of term Christmas assemblies.

I would like to remind you that I write a weekly blog on our Website (posted each Friday afternoon) which highlights all the many activities, achievements and successes of our students. It is an excellent way to keep up to date with all that is happening in the very busy life of Woking High School.

Woking High School finishes the term on Friday 20 December at 12 noon and begins the Spring term on Monday 6th January 2014 at 8.55 a.m.

I wish you, your families and friends, a very merry Christmas and happy new year and also thank you for your support over the past term. Your ongoing commitment and contributions play a key part in the continuing success of our school.

Jane Abbott, Principal
Stop Press

Last weekend, at the National Biathlon Championships in Solihull, our Under 14 Boys Team won the National Title. The team consisted of Ewan Smith, Robbie Faulkner and Richard Sugden. This was a tremendous achievement. The success continued with Ewan winning the Individual Title overall after recording Personal Bests in both Swim (finished 2nd) and Run (finished 3rd). Individually Richard was 18th and Robbie 19th. Kirsten Young in the Under 14 Girls and Tilly Russell was in the Under 15 Girls both finished 28th. Congratulations to them all.

J Justice, Head of Sport

Retirement

On behalf of past and present students, staff, governors of Woking High School and all families associated with the school, I would like to take this opportunity to extend our good wishes to Mrs M Richardson on the occasion of her retirement.

Mrs Richardson joined the school as a supply teacher in 1989. It quickly became apparent that she was a real asset to the teaching staff and therefore within a year she was appointed as a full time member of staff. During her 23 years of service she has undertaken many and various roles including teaching PE, Maths and Childcare!

Throughout her time at the school she has been a key member of the PE department. In the last few years she has experienced considerable success with her current Year 10 Girls Basketball team who have won the County and District titles every year since 2010 when she took them on as Year 7 students. She has been a great coach and role model for the girls and has helped improve them and make them the team they are today. Mrs Richardson has not only given great leadership and sporting expertise to her teams but also works to develop their team ethos, rapport and competitive spirit.

However, without question, her greatest contribution to the life of Woking High School has been her involvement with and leadership of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

In her time at the school, Mrs Richardson has led hundreds of students through the scheme and 750 have achieved bronze and silver awards with many going on to complete gold at sixth form level.

Mrs Richardson’s commitment to all aspects of school life will be sorely missed by students and staff alike. We extend our good wishes to her for a long, happy, healthy and fulfilling retirement. We are delighted that she has promised to maintain her links with the school and has offered, when she can, to accompany school visits and I am sure that she will continue to support Woking High School sports teams both in person and in spirit.

Jane Abbott, Principal
The Eton Connection

An update on 2012 Governors’ Prize-winner
Sam Collett, now a 6th form scholar at Eton College

It was a bright, cold day in November when I found myself on a train on my way to Windsor and Eton Riverside, excited to be granted an opportunity to visit Eton. On arrival I was treated to a hugely warm welcome from Bob Hutton, who runs the Scholarship programme; I enjoyed a tour of the school, a rather impressive lunch, and was even granted a brief audience with the Headmaster at Chambers.

By far the best part of the day was the meeting with Sam and some of the other 6th form scholars. Bob Hutton commented that Sam’s application stood out strongly amongst all the others, and they are thrilled with his progress so far. While Sam has found the shift to Eton unsurprisingly challenging, he is finding his feet and starting to excel, particularly in Physics. He is already thinking about the future, and is keen to explore the idea of applying to one of the top universities in the USA; Eton College has a specialist programme to help him with this.

Bob Hutton and his colleague Richard Coward offer school visits designed to encourage more boys to apply for the scholarship at Eton, so we have agreed that they will come to Woking High School later in the year to talk to some of our Year 10 boys. We currently have two students in Year 11 who have decided to apply for Eton. We have also just heard that Anmol Aggarwal has been offered the Fletcher Scholarship at Charterhouse, where Chris Shah and Valli McAdam have also secured places for next year. We wish them all every success.

E Williams,
Potential High Achievers Co-ordinator

Visit to St Hilda’s College, Oxford

At the beginning of December six of our Year 9 students enjoyed a taste of life amongst the dreaming spires of Oxford University. The Visit to St Hilda’s College included an introduction to how to apply to university, the vast range of courses available, a tour of the college and a taster tutorial in Ancient Greek! In just one hour pupils were confidently reading out Greek words and spelling their names in the Greek alphabet. Staff left wanting to be students again and students left feeling inspired to aim for the very top.

E Robertson, Science
Year 7 Transition Group

Our Year 7 Transition Group (TG) students have got off to an exceptional start this year. One of our favourite tasks has been re-enacting the Battle of Hastings. You can see in the picture above ‘William the Conqueror’ having just won the battle, with both Normans and Saxons having to bow down to their new king. Students are now using the photos we took from our visit to Hastings, along with captions, to create storyboards in class in order to cement their knowledge and understanding.

J Sleap, Transition Co-ordinator

Literacy

The spring term will see the launch of the Woking High School Book Drive. Together we are seeking to double the size of the reading library. If you would like to be involved there are ways in which you can help:

- Donating books that are no longer read at home (across the age range)
- Raising funds for the purchase of new titles.

The book drive will create reading libraries in classrooms; some will be reading for pleasure and some will be for reference purposes, linked to subjects. More information on how you can be involved will be coming to you in the new year.

N Selmes, Literacy Co-ordinator
The following account, from a student perspective, is of our entry to the McLaren Manufacturing Challenge. The Year 8s participating were Joseph Jakubait, Benn Watson, Benjamin Rolfe, Jack Bell and Louis Ciccone.

When we arrived at McLaren we were escorted by a luxury mini bus to the main headquarters, where we met many other school teams and were greeted by waiters serving cookies and drinks. After that we watched a video about McLaren, the history and what the company does. Next we were given a tour showing us the factory where they make the McLaren P1, Mp4-12c and the F1 car. On the tour we saw all the trophies that the team have won (500) including: all F1 1st, 2nd and 3rd; Le Mans and many more. Finally it was time for the big event; the race. We were last to race because teams ran in alphabetical order. We wound our wheels up with our rubber band motor and let go. Our vehicle travelled the required ten metres and the egg did not break. We had two runs. Overall we came 4th but were the youngest there because all the other teams were Year 10 and above, so we were very pleased with our achievement. It was a once in a life time opportunity to visit the McLaren Technology Centre and a real privilege to represent Woking High School.

Ben Rolfe, 8W
**Design Ventura**

A group of Year 9 and 10 students recently took part in a design and enterprise national competition which entailed designing a product to be sold in the Design Museum shop. Students worked together on the live brief in school, in teams of 4 to 6, at an extra-curricular club. This year’s brief was to create a well-designed product to sell in the Design Museum shop relating to the theme ‘handy’.

Students had the opportunity to visit the Design Museum in London during the October day 11. The visit involved a workshop, where students worked alongside leading designers, visiting the three autumn exhibitions and also conducting primary research in the Design Museum shop. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and develop some fantastic final designs and concepts throughout the day.

A Woking High School ‘Ventura’ pitching day was held on the November Day 11, where students worked in teams to finalise their projects and pitch to a panel of three judges. Miss Kenward, Mrs Norman and Mr Crowley decided on the winning team (Alishba Zaman, Sarah Boyd-Lee, Bethany Boyd-Lee, Amy Burns and Charlotte Wallace). The team have recently developed their ‘Quick Bin’ product with Miss Kenward and submitted their entry into the Design Ventura competition.

The top ten shortlisted Design Ventura teams compete in a pitching day at the Design Museum in London, in which they ‘sell’ their idea to a panel of leading designers, entrepreneurs and the Museum’s Head of Retail. The winning team’s product goes into manufacture for sale in the Design Museum shop! We are keeping our fingers crossed that the Woking High School team will be at the final pitching day.

E Kenward, Design & Technology Department

**AREA MATHS CHALLENGE**

On Tuesday 8 October, eleven students participated in a Maths Challenge hosted by Sir William Perkins School in Chertsey. Six schools took part including St George’s College, Magna Carta, Salesian and Jubilee High School. The teams were made up of three students from each year group, 7 – 10. The challenge consisted of four rounds including problem solving, code breaking and using symmetry (which was harder than it looked!). The students enjoyed the afternoon, especially the refreshments! The competition enabled the students develop their teamwork, problem solving skills and perseverance. The Year 7 team did particularly well as they were one member short, through illness.

Well done to the following students:

- **Year 10** David Sugden, Keshav Rao and James Cockerell
- **Year 9** Luke Hall, Daniel Cheetham and Sana Fatima
- **Year 8** Zoe Neale, Dalya Abdali and Milan Sajiv
- **Year 7** Amelia Joos and Faiyaz Moolji

P Dixon, Primary Liaison and Maths Development Co-ordinator
History Visit to Dover Castle

Year 7 braved a visit to Dover Castle, despite the wind and persistent rain. I don’t think that any form of bad weather could have dampened the students’ spirits as we explored the castle, inside and out. The highlight of the visit must have been the turrets which, once climbed, gave us amazing views, right out to sea. The other highlights included the secret tunnels, which were rather like a dark and eerie underground maze. A fantastic day was had by all and it will certainly be a Day 11 to remember.

J Sleap, Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator
Dover Report

At the start of the day we lined up to board the coach that would take us to the castle. It was our very first visit as Woking High School students and we were very excited. After a rather long coach journey, we were welcomed to Dover Castle by a torrential downpour of rain. We were reluctant to leave the coach since we knew there was a wet journey ahead of us. However, as soon as we saw the castle in front of us we were awestruck.

As we entered the castle gates, we saw the magnificent bailey surrounded by lush green grass. After this point we were split into separate groups and our group, mostly made up of 7E students, went to the Roman lighthouse called the Pharos. We learnt that the ghost of a Roman soldier haunts this place even though the inside of the lighthouse has rotted away. When the rain returned briefly we sought refuge in St Mary's church which was very interesting as we could see how it had developed over time. The rain eased slightly and we headed off for lunch. Before entering the keep, we went into an interesting room which contained an immense model of the castle. Once inside we saw the great hall, king's bedchamber, garderobe (which was very smelly!) and the huge kitchen. The scariest part of the day was visiting the labyrinth tunnels in the castle grounds as they were dark and at times very narrow. Interestingly the tunnels led into the deep ditch that surrounds the castle and they had arrow slits in them so the defenders of the castle could fire out at those who tried to attack.

Then it was time to leave and it was with sadness that we boarded the coach to go home. We all enjoyed the Dover Castle visit and cannot wait for the next one!

Anna Rhodes and Emmie Savory, Year 7

GEOGRAPHY/ECO COUNCIL

This term has seen the launch of an all new Geography Council, comprising of two representatives from each year group who had to apply and face a rigorous selection programme. Meeting fortnightly, the members have discussed ideas for new Day 11 visits, evaluated the displays in the department and promoted Geography by encouraging competition around the school. Future projects include discussing the Autumn Term scheme of works and identifying areas of strength and weakness. This year the Council will be focussing on the Geography department’s aims and the Eco-council.

Once the Council is fully established, we are hoping to recruit at least one more member per year group, so keep an eye out in your Geography lessons for details of the application process.

L Dixon, Geography Department
BERLIN 2013

On 7 November twenty five Year 11 students set off on the history department’s visit to Berlin. None of us knew exactly what lay ahead but now it is something we will never forget.

The visit allowed students to broaden their understanding on the Holocaust and the Cold War. Both topics are very central to Berlin and still quite raw. When you are there it is hard to believe that these events only occurred last century.

We visited many historical buildings, structures and places whilst in Berlin including: the Reichstag, Brandenburg Gate, Goering’s Air Ministry Building, Kaiser Wilhelm Church and Wannsee. All of which let us delve deeper into the history of what occurred there.

We visited many memorials whilst in Berlin, including the Holocaust memorial. This was a visit that really allowed students to reflect and develop their ideas and opinions. The architecture of the memorial is very plain and discrete, which left it open for us to interpret and discuss. The museum, which is part of the memorial, was full of stories about individuals and families who went through the Holocaust, many of whom did not survive. This puts into perspective all the figures one hears. One finds it difficult to relate to the figure 6,000,000, but when you read about individual men, women and children being taken from their homes and killed, 6,000,000 is no longer just a number.

This experience was enhanced by a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. It was bitterly cold and we were dressed in several layers with hats, scarves and gloves. We couldn’t even comprehend how freezing the prisoners, who were forced to work outside all day with nothing but a thin uniform on, would have felt. There was a quotation on a wall in Sachsenhausen written by a prisoner of the camp, which read:

“And I know one thing more - that the Europe of the future cannot exist without commemorating all those, regardless of their nationality, who were killed at that time with complete contempt and hate, who were tortured to death, starved, gassed, incinerated and hanged…”

That is something that will stick, certainly with me, and I know many others on the visit; because one thing that everyone came away with is respect, respect for those who survived the Holocaust and also those who didn’t. That day was definitely the most emotionally draining but we needed to see, in order to understand.

We also developed our knowledge on the Cold War to help us with our controlled assessment. A visit to the Berlin Wall did just that. There is a memorial near the Bernauerstrasse section of the wall and it has faces of those who died trying to cross and, quite shockingly, there are a few children on there. That shows just how desperate many people were to get out to make a new life for themselves.

The visit was an invaluable experience for everyone. Not only will it help us with controlled assessment responses but in all areas of our lives.

Rebecca Lynn, 11G
National Army Museum

On Thursday 7 November 2013, Year 8 went to the National Army Museum in Chelsea for a Day 11 visit. During this visit we learnt about the English Civil War. We arrived at school, ready and excited about the Day 11 ahead of us. When we arrived we were greeted by a guide who gave us a lecture about the Civil War and also showed us items they used at the time such as guns, swords, helmets, uniform and even a full size pike. Later on in the day we were able to handle the equipment and try on the uniform.

On the visit we learnt new facts about the Civil War, in particular about the uniform they wore and how surgeons used to perform surgery on soldiers and normal villagers that had got hurt or were ill in the war. When we looked around we were able to see statues and get a visual picture in our minds of what soldiers looked like in the civil war.

People should definitely visit this museum whether they are just looking for a day out with the family or an educational visit with your school. This is a particularly good visit for people who are interested in history and wars. You also get to see how life is so different now and to compare it to a day back in the 17th century.

Amelia Jordan and Abbey Ginnever - Year 8

LANGUAGES DAY 11 ACTIVITY

On Thursday 7 November, Year 7 students participated in a Day 11 activity in which they learnt how different festivals are celebrated around the world. These festivals included Diwali, the Monkey Buffet Festival, La Tomatina, the Venice Carnival and the Festival of the Day of the Dead. They designed a wide range of resources such as posters and masks and created role plays and presentations.

“I like learning about different cultures and because I have never heard of some of the festivals it was fun and interesting!”

“I loved doing research about La Tomatina and presenting it to my classmates”

Aleena Sahi, Year 7 student

This was an enjoyable session in which students showed their appreciation for cultural and linguistic diversity and displayed impressive team work skills.

L Cocina, Languages Department
NEW! Year 9 Foundation Course in Media Studies

Media Studies is a vibrant and relevant subject which has, up until now, been offered as an option at GCSE level and has served to enrich the lives of the students, making them aware of the power and influence of the Media in their world. So it was with great excitement that, in September, we launched a Foundation Course in Media Studies for Year 9 students.

This course affords the students an opportunity to investigate a range of Media platforms in order to gain an understanding in basic theory and explore a variety of practical skills. In addition to this, the students will be in a position to submit work for their Artsmark Portfolios in order to achieve a Bronze Award. This course is being well received by the students and hopefully many will be encouraged to continue their studies in Media in GSCE!

J Tuson, Head of Media Studies

DRAMA

The production of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ is proceeding apace.

Costumes have been skilfully made from original designs and are looking extremely professional. I have to thank Rev. Lacey and Mrs Brandon for their nimble fingers in bringing my sketches to life.

Rehearsals after Christmas will be on Monday and Thursday after school with Wednesday as a cast singing rehearsal. It is important that cast members attend all the rehearsals from this point.

Tickets will be on sale in the New Year.

N Selmes, Head of Drama
Windband and Choir Tour to Lake Garda
20 - 27 July 2013

Last year’s tour to Lake Garda was such a success that we decided to return to Italy for Tour 2013. Twenty eight members of the Wind band and choir plus four staff participated in the tour, staying in the resort of Riva del Garda on the Northern shores of the lake.

Monday was our first full day with the itinerary consisting of a full morning dress rehearsal, lunch in Riva, free time and then our first concert in the evening in the small village of Borago, on the western shores of the lake. The concert went well despite poor acoustics and road traffic noise; the keen local audience loved the music and we were enthusiastically applauded.

On Tuesday, following dinner and a change into concert uniform, we arrived for our second performance. Our backdrop was a magnificent Town Hall set in a beautifully manicured garden within a square, which provided excellent acoustics, amplifying our sound to that of a significantly larger ensemble. This was without doubt our best ever concert location of any tour and was the best performance of the week. The good people of Pastrengo turned out in full force to see and hear us and they clearly loved the concert, demanding two encores at the end. After the concert a variety of dignitaries came up to speak; they were amazed at such young talent and wished Italian school children could be as dedicated as ours! The Town Mayor then presented us with a large silver plaque and an historical print.

Wednesday was our day off from performing. We spent the morning at the beautiful lakeside town of Limone. Travelling across the lake on the boat, we saw numerous lakeside buildings that appeared to be constructed within the very stone of the mountains, the town having been built on a vertiginous slope with the main shopping area on the waterfront. As its name might suggest, Limone is famous for its lemons. After dinner we all dressed in our finest attire in order to attend the opera, Verdi’s “Il Trovatore”, in the famous Arena di Verona (Roman amphitheatre). It was a spectacular setting within this partly ruined building, with the stage set gradually coming to life as the natural light faded, adding another dimension to an already astoundingly beautiful performance. Even on the top steps, the sound filled the air as we settled on our pillows to cushion us from the hard Roman steps.

On Thursday, our final evening concert by the lakeside at Torri del Benaco was magical. There was
a street market taking place and this helped to provide
a very large audience in a beautiful setting. The students
performed brilliantly to a very large and appreciative crowd.
I invited children from the audience to join in with shakers
and tambourines for our Blues Brothers medley. The
concert was a huge success and again two encores were
demanded.

On Friday we had one final ice cream in Riva del Garda
before departing for the UK. We travelled safely as far as
Calais where Mrs Selmes left us, ready to join the sports
tour to the Alps due out from Woking High School the next
day! Mrs Selmes did a great job of managing and updating
our first ever Music Tour blog and I know that it was helpful
for parents to be informed of events and be reassured that
their children were safe and enjoying themselves.

The quality of music produced on this tour improved
as expected from concert to concert. I am immensely
proud of the way that all students rose to the challenge,
especially those who were on their maiden tour. I would like
to highlight Year 7 student Chris Pearce for his excellent
work on tuba which is the largest instrument in the band.
In particular I would also like to mention the three soloists
who excelled themselves in all concerts. Helen Tinlin played
a beautiful flute solo with real poise and lovely tone quality,
whilst Matthew Hill managed a challenging TV theme
on trumpet to perfection. Only in Year 8, Matthew did a
sterling job as principal trumpet and played beyond his
years. Sara Hill has had a fabulous year with much success
and recognition for her singing. Sara won over every
audience with her superb, beautifully resonant soprano
voice, and her two solos (Mozart’s ‘Una Donna a Quindici
Anni’ and the opening of ‘Time to Say Goodbye’) were the
outstanding items of the tour.

It was time to ‘Say Goodbye’ and thank you to Katy Bell,
Katelin Dolton, Lucy Nicholls, Heather McSkimming, Hollie
Rhodes and Helen Tinlin, our Year 11 students. They have
all gained so much experience in performance and have
improved their instrumental skills immensely over the last
five years.

It really was a memorable tour for so many reasons.
The great location, the hot weather, the fun we all had,
the amazing concerts we performed and the reception
given to us by local people following our performances.
For me, the whole ethos of tour was captured when all
twenty eight students joyfully sang ‘Shosholoza’ in so
many locations, bringing happiness with their music to
the many appreciative tourists and locals. Tour is about
working together as a unit, not just to make music. To
see so many students of different ages and abilities unite
with one purpose, and to achieve that in a meaningful way
is extremely gratifying, and worth ever ounce of blood,
sweat and tears (metaphorically speaking) given during
rehearsals. Thank you to the staff who did a wonderful job
and many thanks to the students for getting the summer
holidays underway in such uplifting and positive style.

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance

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Examination Success for Students in Music Performance

Since the last Newsletter, students have received results for
practical examinations taken during June and July 2013.
The following students (placed in alphabetical order) all
passed, on various instruments or through dance for the
Associated Board of The Royal School of Music, Trinity
College or Rock School. Students were also successful in
written Music Theory papers. Graded examinations range
from 1 – 8. Congratulations to the students for achieving
such excellent passes and many thanks to the instrumental
peripatetic and private music teachers for successfully
preparing them for public examinations:

Grace Stubbington  Year 9  Clarinet,
                    Grade 5 Merit

Holly James        Year 10  Theory of Music,
                    Grade 5 Merit

Ella Shankla       Year 7   Singing,
                    Grade 4 Merit

S Goodwin, Director of Music Performance
VI Unit – ‘Touching the Book’

On 11 October 2013 a small group of Year 8, 9 and 10 students from the specialist centre for students with visual impairment visited an exhibition called ‘Touching the Book’ at a gallery in London.

The exhibition explored the history of literacy for blind and visually impaired people in nineteenth century Britain and Europe through the development of embossed literature. Students were introduced to the variety of embossed writing systems that blind people were taught prior to the widespread adoption of Braille at the end of the nineteenth century. The exhibition displayed examples of early class books, spiritual guides, writing devices and the first specially commissioned embossed bibles. The students developed their understanding of how early embossing attempts were motivated by religious desire to enable blind people to read the word of God directly through touch.

Although not all the students that visited the exhibition are tactile learners or read Braille, the exhibition was useful in highlighting the way in which systems for blind and visually impaired learners have developed and how the shift changed from the need to have access to the word of God to having access to literature and education. It allowed the students to put into perspective the wide range of technology that is now available and to be aware that there was a time when it was deemed unnecessary for blind children to attend school.

“Before this trip I actually believed that I knew everything about sight-loss or blindness, but this trip showed me I didn’t and I really enjoyed our day.”

Zaynab Rehman, Year 8

A Stonehill, Head of VI Unit
SPORTS NEWS

NATIONAL SWIMMING SUCCESS

The Under 14 boys team of Robbie Faulkner, Ewan Smith, Richard Sugden and Alex Zalaf qualified for the National Secondary School Relay Championships at Crystal Palace Sport Centre. At the National Finals the fastest sixteen school teams in the country, from over two hundred teams who had initially entered each event, are invited to compete. A superb swim in the heats of the medley relay saw the boys qualify for the final. A slightly slower swim in the final saw the boys finish 6th behind winners Millfield who set a new Championship Record. In the freestyle relay the boys finished 7th in the final. The standard at Crystal Palace was so high that representing Plymouth College, was Ruta Meilutyte from Lithuania, who had won Gold in the 100m breaststroke at the London 2012 Olympics and is now a double World Record holder. For the boys to have the opportunity to compete alongside a current Olympic Gold medallist/World Record holder was a very special moment.

At the Surrey Relay Championships all five of our teams competed well with the Year 7 boys team finishing second in the medley relay. This team consisted of Max Chitty, Ollie Zalaf, Eerik Cockin and Tom Young.

SURREY SCHOOLS BIATHLON

Woking High School again achieved remarkable success at the Surrey Schools Biathlon at the K2 Arena in Crawley. Please see the individual and team performances below:

Team Results:
- Under 14 Boys A Team: 1st
- Under 14 Boys B Team: 2nd

Selected Individual Results (Top 10):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Alex Zalaf</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Ewan Smith</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Richard Sugden</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Robbie Faulkner</td>
<td>5th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Joseph Jakubait</td>
<td>6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Tilly Russell</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 15</td>
<td>Phoebe Grant</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>Ollie Zalaf</td>
<td>7th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Kirsten Young</td>
<td>8th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Cameron McAdam</td>
<td>9th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 14</td>
<td>Matthew Danton</td>
<td>10th</td>
</tr>
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</table>

As a result of the national ranking list eight of our students have qualified to compete in the National Club Biathlon Championship that is taking place in Birmingham in early December. Year 9 Ewan Smith is currently ranked number one in Britain in his age group.

BOYS BASKETBALL

The boys Basketball teams have got off to an excellent start this term. The Year 8 team, current County Champions, have won all three Surrey League games and the first District Tournament, winning all six games comfortably in the process. A strong team ethic and desire to get better in training has been paramount to the boys’ success. Standout performers have been Callum West and Peter Arnold. The Year 11 boys continue to show impressive form; they have won nine out of ten games and their only loss was against Hollyfield, Kingston, when the team was heavily depleted due to injuries and college interviews. Perhaps the most improved team have been the Year 10s, they are currently unbeaten and have won all three games and recorded excellent wins over District Champions Winston Churchill 35 – 28 and SJB 42 – 14. In particular the shooting of Alex Braine Porter, the rebounding prowess of Oscar Wyman and the passing skills of Josh Bowler have been crucial to the team’s success. The Year 9 boys are enjoying playing full court and have suffered only one loss in a friendly to SJB but have won all District Games and County Cup games to date. The Year 7s have played one tournament and have another coming up in December. In the first tournament the boys finished 5th, with Josh Huntley-Robertson and George Flaherty and Morgan Porter leading the team.
GIRLS BASKETBALL

Like last year, the standout team have been the Year 10s, they have won all their matches to date in both District and County League. The girls have been pushed quite hard notably by Winston Churchill where we won 25 – 22. The girls are looking forward to the National Competition where there will be some tough games. The Year 7 and 8 teams came second in their first District Tournament behind winners SJB and will be looking to gain revenge in the next two upcoming tournaments. The Year 9 girls have suffered one defeat but looked a real force in a big win over Collingwood.

BOYS RUGBY

The Year 8 team has made an excellent start, backing up their strong season last year. They have won seven out of eight games, our only defeat coming against Trinity School (Croydon) in the National Cup. The team have recorded fine wins against SJB and Gordons. Several of the leading players were put through to Harlequins Academy Trials and following this Ryan Lees has been selected to join their Academy.

GIRLS NETBALL

All five year groups have played several fixtures and have had some mixed results but the Year 7 team has shown the most promise. They recorded an excellent draw against Gordon’s (with the B Team winning). Molly Price and Freya Ruddle have shown much potential and have been vital to the team’s success.

BOYS FOOTBALL

The boys have experienced mixed results. The most successful side to date have been the Year 10s who have had excellent wins against Wimbledon College and St Peter’s in the County Cup and are looking to push further on in to the latter rounds. The strike forces of Josh Bowler, Jack Oswin and Jason Dwumfu have been very potent, ably backed up with the goal keeping talents of Connor Richardson.

GIRLS FOOTBALL

All girls teams have had a successful first term, particularly the Year 8/9 team. They are the current reigning Surrey Champions having won the Under 13 County Cup Competition last year and they have certainly performed like a winning team this year losing no games so far. They have been entered into the English Schools FA Competition this year and are sailing through the rounds so far beating Riddlesdown 13-0 and Hove Park School 5-0 along the way. They face Blenheim High School in the next round and having beaten Blenheim’s 9/10 team last week 5-2 in the Surrey Cup competition the girls are very hopeful of continuing on to round five. Closer to home, the girls have also played in the annual 6-a-side district tournaments which involve twelve local schools. The Year 10/11 girls finished runners up losing narrowly 1-0 to Winston Churchill in the final and the Year 8/9 girls came out on top once again beating SJB in the final. All girls played fantastically, particularly Anisha Hill, Lena Stroem and Paige McElhatton.

HOCKEY

The Hockey teams have got off to an outstanding start. In both the District tournaments to date we have yet to concede a goal! The Year 10/11 mixed team finished 3rd after three draws and a win and the Year 7-9 mixed team won all four games in winning their tournament. The teams are looking forward to more success in the future.
CROSS COUNTRY

In the First Round of the English Schools Competition which featured schools from Hampshire and North West Surrey, our intermediate boys team came second and qualified for the London and South East finals. Twins, Matthew and Adam Tolefree, were outstanding finishing 5th and 8th respectively.

DIVISIONAL/COUNTY/NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

Amy and Ruby Hamilton were selected to represent England in the European Baton Twirling Championships in Belgium in 2014. Bethany Barber, Mia Lansdell and Amy and Ruby have all won a whole host of National Baton Twirling titles.

Harris Porter in Year 11 represented the South East Under 15 Basketball Team in the National Regional Tournament. Harris was in the starting lineup for all six games. The South East finished 3rd overall out of the ten competing regions.

Olivia Barber in Year 10 has recently achieved great success in archery with her club side, Woking. She competed at the National shoot and won one Gold medal and two Bronzes.

Year 8 Ryan Lees jumped 5.13 metres in the Long Jump in September which ranked him equal 4th in the whole of Britain at Under 13 Level.

Alex Zalaf represented Surrey at the Inter Counties Swimming Championships, helping them to seventh place overall with over twenty Counties competing.

Valli McAdam, Beckie Davies, Anisha Hill and Lena Stroem have all represented Surrey Girls at Football.

Twins David and Robbie Faulkner and David Sugden have all been selected for the Surrey Under 14 Hockey Squad.

J Justice, Head of Sport

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 Bronze

Sixty new recruits have been signed onto the Bronze Award and many have already started their activities. I am pleased to see so many actively volunteering in the community with placements ranging from Surrey Wildlife to working with disabled children. Good luck to everyone. Expedition training will start after the Christmas holidays. Letters with training information have already been distributed. Please make sure all expedition dates are kept free.

Year 11 Bronze

Following a successful yet challenging expedition this summer, I am pleased to report that, so far, twenty three students have completed their award. Many students just need to input their final pieces of evidence so that they too can complete. A presentation of certificates will be held on 25 March at the HG Wells Suite in Woking, with the Mayoress – full details to follow.

Final date for completion of awards in order to attend the presentation evening is Monday 6 January.

Marian Richardson retires in December after 20 years of running the Duke of Edinburgh Award at Woking High School. I am sure all past and present Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates will join me in thanking her for her enthusiasm, commitment and dedication to the Award and wish her well for the future.

E King, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator
YOUNG CARERS UPDATE

As we are sure many of you will already be aware, we run a support group for our Young Carers at Woking High School which is well attended across the year groups, we have recently been delighted to welcome a number of Year 7 students into the group.

Due to generous donations from the local community we are able to fund a monthly lunch in school for our support group and are also able to offer our Young Carers a well-deserved break from their everyday caring duties through occasional visits out.

Once again, we thank St Mary’s church for generously donating the proceeds of their coffee mornings and always welcoming our Young Carers when we visit.

During the summer term, our local PCSO (Police Community Support Officer), Derek Slee and our NSO (Neighbourhood Specialist Officer) Rebecca Holder worked really hard in the Community to raise over £350 for Woking Young Carers at the Horsell Village Show on 27 July. We are also grateful to The Red Lion, The Cricketers, Seymour’s Estate agent and the Co-op for working with Derek and Rebecca to help raise the money. A special mention needs to go to Mr Mintram and the customers at the Crown pub for donating £100 from the proceeds of their Quiz.

We are currently planning a Christmas visit to Woking pantomime and the Young Carers are really looking forward to it.

C Wilkinson and H Addison,
Student Support Officers

CHRISTMAS BOXES

I am delighted to report that Year 7 have made an extraordinary effort to put together eighty four shoeboxes full of Christmas goodies for the charity ‘Operation Christmas Child’, a charity that supports children who would not otherwise receive anything. Mrs Abbott introduced us to the scheme in October and invited us to reflect on what Christmas might be like for people less fortunate than ourselves. Since then, Year 7 have been frantically collecting gifts and wrapping their shoeboxes in Christmas wrapping paper. Congratulations to all those who took part, in particular to 7E who put together an incredible twenty four shoeboxes between them.

J Sleap, Year 7 Learning Co-ordinator

LIBRARY

We are pleased to report that library usage has gone from strength to strength this term, with the library regularly being full at break and lunch. Borrowing levels are already double what they were at this time last year! There is recent research that demonstrates that reading for pleasure boosts students’ mathematical abilities as well as their literacy, so I am expecting this positive attitude towards reading will have an effect on students’ work across all their subjects.

J Woodhouse, Librarian
Friends of Woking High School’s
Christmas Table Top Sale

17 November saw the FoWHS organise their first Table Top Sale. For those parents new to the school, FoWHS is a group open to all parents and staff and their main aim is to raise additional funds for the school. Departments can submit ‘bids’ to FoWHS to help support them with resources that would not ordinarily come out of their own budgets. Our large project at the moment is raising money for a new AstroTurf surface.

The Christmas Table Top Sale attracted over 25 stall holders ranging from small businesses (including Horsell Preserves, Harry’s Hot Chilies, Rosebush Crafts, Pampered Chef, Arbonne and What’s Your Totem) to more traditional ‘car booty’ stalls. We also provided Woking Hospice with a complimentary table to help them raise some additional funds. There were lots of Christmas gift ideas on offer and some fantastic bargains to be had.

Through the sale of the Table Tops, refreshments and raffle tickets we managed to raise over £450! FoWHS would like to say a big thank you to all parents, staff and local residents who supported this event.

Our aim is to run another Table Top Sale in the summer term and continue to have two events each year. Watch this space for more details! The FoWHS also organise the termly Prize Draw and application forms for this can be downloaded from the school website. Thank you for your continued support.

The Friends of Woking High School

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PARKING

As the mornings are now quite dark and the evenings have drawn in, many more parents are making the decision to drop off and/or collect their children from school. Whilst this is quite understandable, can I please ask that, if you are dropping off or collecting students by car from Woking High School, you give consideration to our neighbours? Local residents have expressed concerns that cars are sometimes parked inconsiderately in Morton Road and Horsell Rise. Please park with care so that students are not put at risk, that local residents can access their driveways and that the roads in front of and around the school do not become gridlocked.

Jane Abbott, Principal

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Term Dates

Spring Term
6 January to 4 April 2014

Half Term
17 February to 21 February 2014

Summer Term
22 April to 23 July 2014

Half Term
26 May to 30 May 2014

Inset Days
31 January 2014
20 June 2014