Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

2026



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A Fantastic Start to the Autumn Term

As we approach the October half term, I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. The first half of the autumn term has been filled with learning, achievement, and memorable moments across the school. It has been wonderful to see our students embracing new opportunities and settling into the routines of the new academic year.

Welcoming New Faces
We are delighted to welcome new students, families, and staff members to the Woodlands Meed community. It has been a pleasure to see everyone settling in so positively, and our school continues to be filled with enthusiasm, friendship, and learning.

Celebrating Our Achievements
Our students have made an excellent start to the year. Whether through academic success, developing independence, building relationships, or achieving personal milestones, they continue to demonstrate resilience, determination, and a positive attitude. It's been great to attend so many reviews this year, and I am very proud of what our students have accomplished so far.

Parent-Teacher Meetings
Working in partnership with families is key to supporting every child's success. Parent-teacher meetings will take place during the second week after the half-term break and provide a valuable opportunity to discuss progress, celebrate achievements, and identify next steps together.

Please remember to book your appointment via SCOPAY by 5pm on Wednesday 4th November.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding
The wellbeing and safety of our students remain at the heart of everything we do. We are committed to working closely with families to ensure every child feels safe, valued, and supported throughout their time at Woodlands Meed. At times this may involve sensitive or challenging conversations, but these are always guided by our shared commitment to achieving the best outcomes for our young people.

Learning Around the School
There has been so much happening across our classrooms this term. From engaging learning experiences to creative projects and exciting activities, our students have been busy developing new skills and enjoying their learning. Be sure to read the class and subject updates below, to discover some of the highlights from around the school and college.

Key Dates

- **Back to School**: Monday 2nd November
- **Inset Day**: Thursday 5th November (school closed to pupils)

As we head into the half-term break, I would like to thank our students, staff, governors, and families for their continued support. Together we have made a wonderful start to the year, and I look forward to all that we will achieve in the weeks ahead.

Wishing everyone a restful and enjoyable half term.

Warm regards,
Adam Rowland
Headteacher

Badger Bulletin

Badgers have really enjoyed exploring different food in our food tech lessons this term.

We have made sweet and savoury houses inspired by the Three Little Pigs, along with pink pig themed smoothies, linking to our topic 'Home and Away'















Desert Class Newsletter

A great start in Desert class, settling in to different lessons and working on our Team Building Skills





We have started designing our rocket cars in DT and have been learning how to use the tools safely.















In computing we have been using the scratch programme and creating algorithms.

Fox Class News







Fox class had an amazing start to the year. They went to Sompting for pumpkin picking and attended a cricket festival where they played a few fun activities practicing batting and bowling.

They have also been enjoying swimming and spending time in forest school, participating in activities that enhance our creativity.







Glacier Class

Glacier Class have made a brilliant start to the year.

They have enjoyed getting to know each other and made new friends across KS3.





Glacier have shown great enthusiasm for all subjects - particularly showing some real flair for basketball.











Glacier have demonstrated great knowledge in science and have been doing experiments to discover all about liquids, solids and gases .





Hedgehog Herald

Hedgehog class have had a great start to the Autumn term. Everyone is enjoying our topic of 'Families and Communities' and we are basing all our activities around this. We are also working on being as active as possible and making the most of the good weather.













Lake Class

We had a great day at Brighton Racecourse where we learnt all about how they prepare the horses and even got to watch a race.





We have also been enjoying going to the College as we have been travelling there for our PE lessons every week.

Lake Class have been working incredibly hard in their cooking lessons with Maria. Each week they have made amazing food!





In Performing Arts, they have begun practicing their dance for the school play.

Moles Class

This term in Topic we have been covering This is Me. We have been labelling parts of our body and thinking about our interests and what makes us unique. All pupils are enjoying swimming sessions and our P.E sessions on the Muga, where we have been working on pedalling and steering around obstacles.

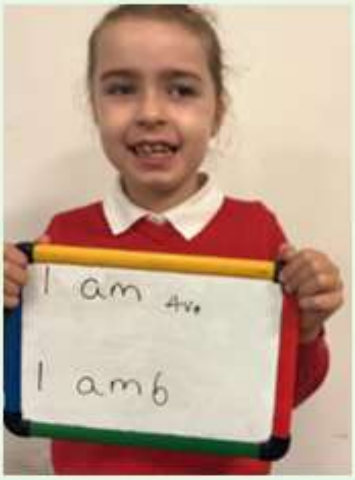
We have been practising tracing, copying and writing our names.





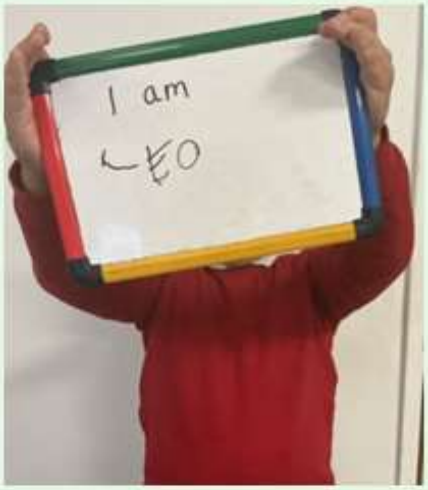


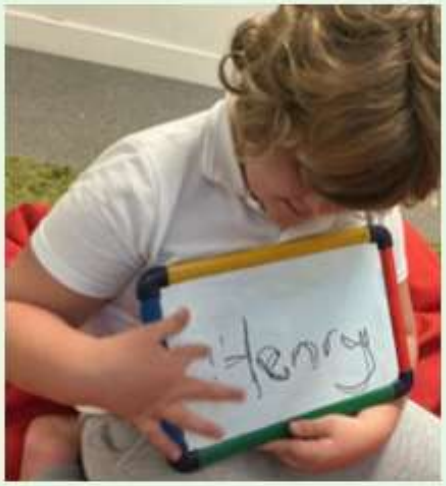














Mountain Class-The Summit Squad

It's been a great start to the year, everyone has settled in quickly



We had a great day at the races! We learned the rules of being a Jockey, got to dress up as one and then we got to watch a live race!



Everyone was impressive in team games for Communication- we managed to turn a blanket over without anyone stepping off



In Forest School, we picked some seasonal berries, crushed them and created our own ink to write messages with



We have been busy in Art getting our costumes ready for our Christmas production

Ocean Class Newsletter







This half term we have been learning about healthy eating and healthy teeth in Ocean Class!











Otters Class



Autumn 1

Everyone has settled in well to Otters class and have been enjoying getting to know each other.

We enjoyed our weekly sound bath sessions!









And splashing around in the pool!





Owl Class News







We have had a fun start to the year. A trip to Sompting to pick pumpkins followed by a fun/ messy afternoon carving them!

Everyone is enjoying our food tech, swimming and Forest school sessions. There has been a focus on life skills with a trip to Waitrose and learning about road safety and also daily sessions on fine motor skills undoing and doing up a range of fastenings.















Rabbits





We started our topic 'This is Me' and have been exploring our faces, our families and habitats!









Rabbits have been enjoying their swimming sessions!

We've had lots of fun dressing up and playing instruments in performing arts!











River



Welcome to River Class 26-27! We have all settled well into River class and started to make some new friends.



We designed some lovely jeans for Jeans for Genes Day





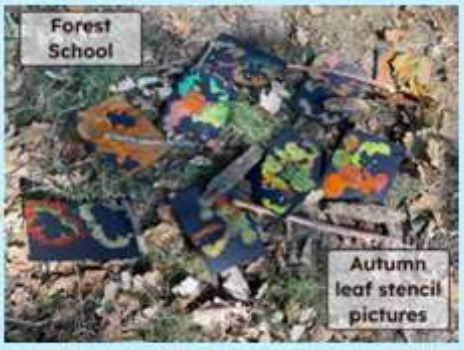


We have started to make our props for the Christmas play during Art lessons



In PE we have been practicing our team-work skills by playing lots of games





We have been having fun exploring the Forest School Area and making things

Robin Roundup













We have had a fantastic start to the new school year with the Robins enjoying learning both inside and outside the classroom this term



Squirrels Class!

We welcomed our lovely new Squirrels to the school by exploring the classroom, playgrounds and communal spaces.






We have been doing lots of interacting; playing with different equipment, toys and sensory materials. We have been loving the little trampoline and the playground equipment!







Waterfall News

Autumn term 1



We have been reading Varjak Paw written by S F Said. The class enjoy getting comfortable and finding out what happens next to the Mesopotamian Blue Kitten. It has created lots of discussions about how Varjak might be feeling.

We introduced monsters into the classroom! Everyone has been training their monster and trying to get to the top of the leader board. It has made a positive impact on our learning new phonic sounds.







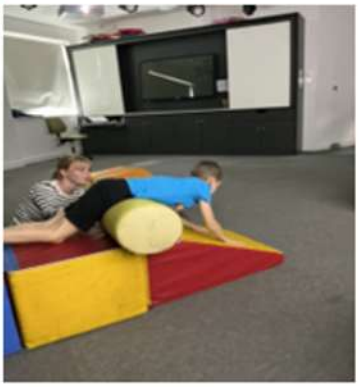

We got very creative and drew some excellent self portraits.






Wonderful Woodpeckers











Woodpeckers have settled into the new term brilliantly. We have been enjoying our weekly trips to the park, getting stuck in with food tech lessons making biscuits and playing turn-taking games. We've had lots of sensory exploration and getting messy with our 'Then and Now' topic!

WELCOME TO 5DA CLASS NEWSLETTER





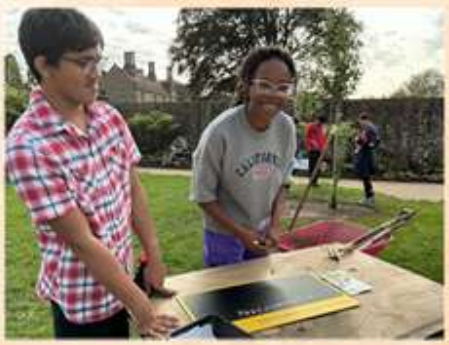
5DA have settled back into college life. They have been very busy selecting their Enrichment, Options and Enterprise choices.





Some of our students are also busy attending Work experience, and are having a wonderful time gaining valuable knowledge and hands on experience.





Class 5IS

CLASSROOM NEWS

AUTUMN TERM 1 2026

What We Learned

Back to College

We started college with lots of familiar faces in 5IS but a significant new face; our class teacher Ian.
It hasn't taken long though for it to feel like he's been here for ages - in the best way of course!

Enrichment

Enrichment gives many of us an opportunity to get some fresh air with some getting out each week on brisk walks with the walking group.

Enterprise

We have students from 5IS doing all of the different Enterprise choices and the staff have already been enjoying the lunches made by the Catering group. The new Marketing group has got off to a flying start.

PSHE

This term we have been looking at our personal strengths and how to deal with negative comments. We've also talked about things that "fill our cup" and strategies we use to take the pressure off.

Pictures



Upcoming Events

OCT
22 Girls football match; good luck Precious and Keira!

OCT
23 Have a great half term!

5CH





In 5CH class this half term we have been welcoming the new students into our class. We have travelled to local forests and National Trusts to experience the seasonal change and develop our walking stamina.













5CG

Newsletter



We have been busy being active this half term!







5CT

5CT have had a great first half term settling back into college. We have been enjoying lots of sensory stories, creative art opportunities and focusing on our communication skills, whilst exploring our topic 'then and now'.












5CR Newsletter



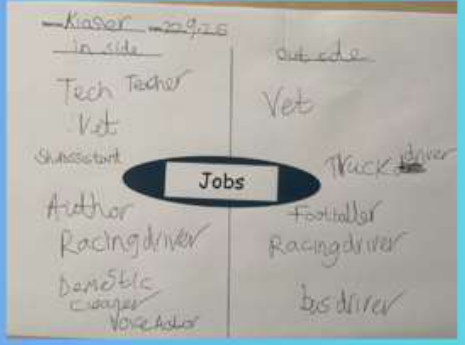
5CR have settled back into college really well and we have welcomed 3 new students, Sam, Marley and Adil





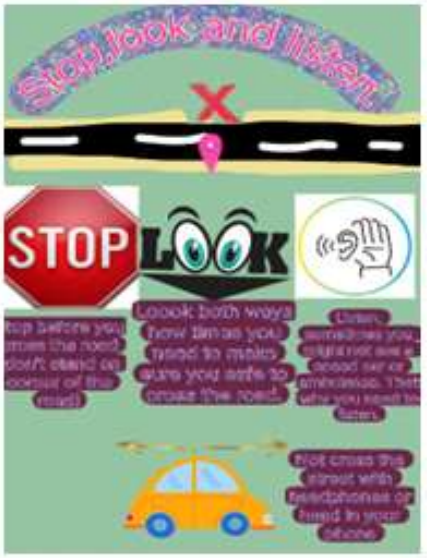
During our Citizenship lessons we have been learning about renewable and non-renewable energy sources

In PSHE we have been working on Self-Awareness, Careers, Hopes and Dreams



Travel Training Enrichment

Students have been building their confidence and independence in our Travel Training enrichment group. After practising safe road crossing in a hall-based road simulator, students put their learning into action in the community, safely crossing roads and learning about level crossings. They were able to identify potential hazards and point out to staff what they had done wrong. We are incredibly proud of the confidence, independence and maturity they showed throughout .



A road safety poster created by two of our students.











KS4 Science

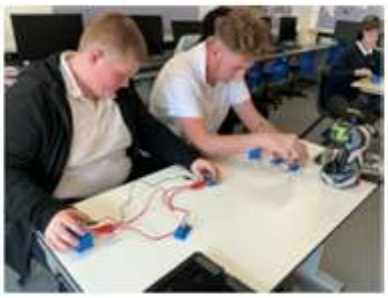


Year 11s had to build parallel and series circuits .











Some of our KS4 students made posters about the dangers , hazards and risks in the home.









Year 10s did an experiment to find what happens in an exo-thermic reaction.





Foodtech

Catering enterprise have been busy hosting their first event







Enrichment & Options have been making some yummy food to try at home



This term we have been working on independence, and trying new foods.



College Performing Arts

College performing arts and dance option groups have been busy re-hearsing for the Christmas Pantomime of Aladin. Students have all been given their parts and are working hard to memorise their lines. It has been great to collaborate with dance too, working together to put on a spectacular performance!





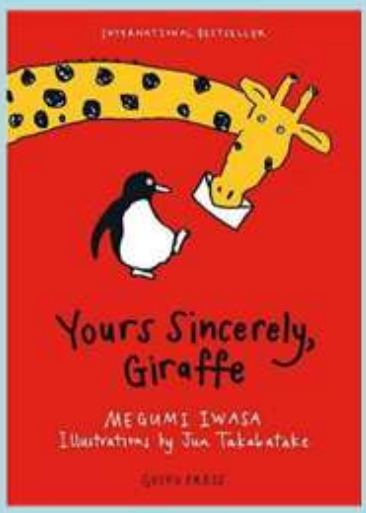








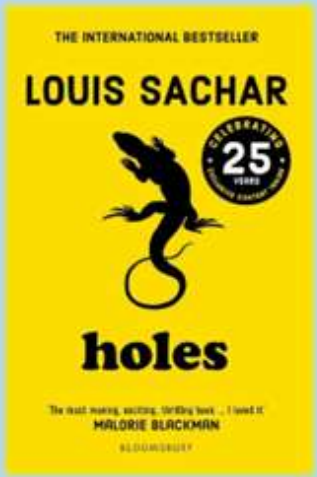
KS4 English



We have used this story to talk about ourselves and other people. We have used expressions to describe appearance and we have learned new vocabulary to talk about our emotions.

Students have read extracts from this book to analyse language techniques and to identify the writer's intention in fiction texts. They have practiced writing point, evidence, explanation paragraphs.





Students reading this text have used their inferencing skills to make deductions about the story. They have also written summaries of the plot.

Students have read this story and learned about different animals and their habitats. Students used adjectives when producing a fact file, and they have also learned how to write an email.



Key Stage 5 Retail Enterprise

This half term, the new Crafties team in Key Stage 5 Retail Enterprise got straight to work preparing for the Burgess Hill Christmas Markets. From the very beginning, learners showed enthusiasm and determination as they took on the exciting challenge of creating high-quality handmade Christmas cards to sell at the event.

Working within a structured production line, students were divided into three specialist teams: **Preparation, Production**, and **Finishing**. Each group had an important role to play in the card-making process. The Preparation team organised materials measured and prepared resources ready for use. The Production team used the Cricut machine to cut out the designs, demonstrating excellent attention to detail. Finally, the Finishing team put each component of the card together and added the final touches, ensuring every card met a high standard before being completed.

A wide range of valuable employability and life skills were on display. Learners demonstrated **teamwork** by working collaboratively towards a shared goal, **independence** by completing tasks with confidence, and **resilience** by overcoming challenges and finding solutions when things did not go to plan. Their **creativity** shone through in the unique designs they produced, while **respect** was evident in the way they supported and encouraged one another throughout the process.









MEEDS MARKETING

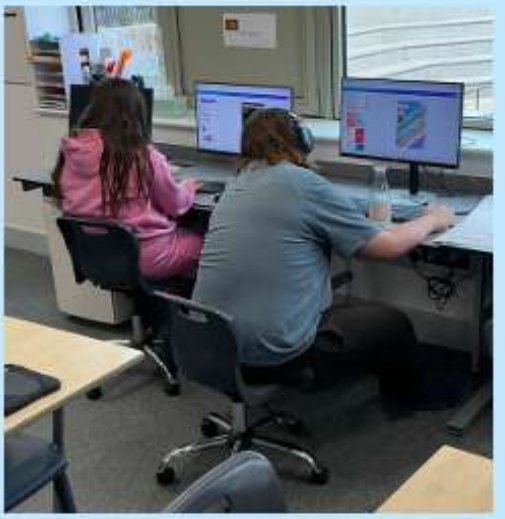
Introducing Meeds Marketing, the latest Key Stage 5 Enterprise.

Meeds Marketing will be supporting Inspire Cafe, The Kitchen Garden, The Shed, Crafties and other college events.

This half term, students have been familiarising themselves with different advertising examples such as posters and radio adverts, with our latest advert due to feature on Woodlands Meed Radio too. They also designed a Meeds Marketing logo.

Students have been busy planning our marketing tasks throughout the year to make sure we are organised to support the different events.







Jeans for Genes Day 2026






On Friday 18 September, we wore our denim to raise funds to support families and help find a cure for genetic disorders.

Thank you for your support.

JEANS FOR GENES






It has been a fantastic half term in DofE, with students gaining valuable experience in map reading, navigation and first aid. Everyone has worked hard and our new students have adapted incredibly well. We are excited to start the volunteering section after half term.

Students have shown increasing confidence in using maps, following routes and working together to solve problems. First aid sessions have helped develop important life skills, while practical navigation activities have encouraged independence and teamwork. It has been wonderful to see students embrace new challenges, support one another and make excellent progress throughout the term.

















Autumn Term College







It has been a fantastic half term in Sports College, with our Year 10 students settling in brilliantly and embracing every opportunity on offer. Students have shown great enthusiasm and commitment while taking part in football, badminton, boxing, step class and fitness sessions. It has been wonderful to see confidence grow, new friendships form and students encouraging one another to achieve their best. Their positive attitudes, teamwork and willingness to try new activities have made this a very successful half term, and we look forward to building on this progress in the weeks ahead.








SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD


TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER
WEAR
RED
DAY 26
FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER 2026
CHANGE HEARTS. CHANGE MINDS. CHANGE LIVES.
#WRD26




BOSS


SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
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