



WEOBLEY HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

We have finally reached the end of another school year and I'm sure that you, like me, are looking forward to having the opportunity to enjoy some 'family time' in the (hopefully) summer sun! It's been a exciting year for us; not only because of the federation with Weobley Primary School, but also our popularity has continued to grow and we are now one of the most oversubscribed schools in the county. We do not take this for granted however and I remain incredibly proud to be headteacher of a school where we have such a committed staff working closely with supportive parents for the good of their children. This partnership is vital and is very much integral to the school's success and reputation.

I'd like to wish you all a wonderful summer break and I'll see you back here bright-eyed and bushy-tailed on **Tuesday 5th September**.

WEOBLEY FEDERATION

This has been an exciting year for us as the high school and the primary school have now formally federated under one governing body and the leadership of one executive headteacher. This is already having a huge impact with the primary school beginning to increase in numbers and achieving some of the best results in the country in the recent SATs, placing us over 20% above the national average! We are also introducing specialist teaching in ICT and Sport by using high school staff and facilities across the key stages as well as setting up weekly dance classes via Aspire Dance Studios at the primary school from September.

Please remember that we now provide a full-time nursery at the primary school from 2 year olds and upwards and that, due to a recent change in legislation, any pupil who attends the primary school will now be prioritised for a place at the high school, regardless of where they live.

Term Dates 2017-2018

Autumn:

Tuesday 5th September to Friday 15th December 2017
Half term: 23rd to 27th October 2017

Spring :

Wednesday 3rd January to Thursday 29th March 2018
Half term: 19th to 23rd February 2018

Summer:

Monday 16th April to Friday 20th July 2018
Half term: 28th May to 1st June 2018



COMMUNITY NOTICE



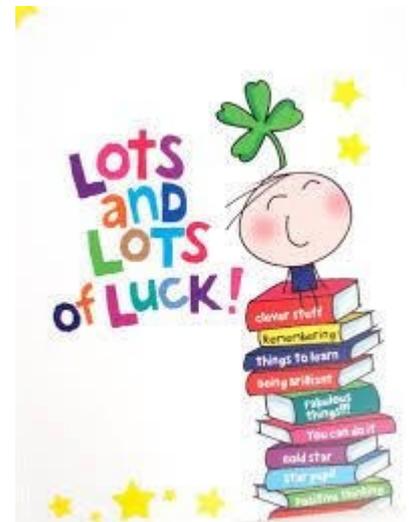
This is a reminder to families living near to the school that the site is completely out of bounds once the school is closed. This includes evenings, weekends and school holidays. We are working with the police to ensure that the site is secure at these times due to recent damage and also the extensive building work taking place over the summer which will leave certain areas of the school a hazard. Please ensure that your children are aware of this as the police are prepared to take action against anybody accessing the site out of hours.



Fond Farewells

It is at this time of year that we have to say goodbye to certain staff members. Firstly I know many of us will be very sad to see Mrs Pawlow leave us at the end of term. Mrs P (or even Mummy P!), as she is known, has worked here in various guises for 19 years and since 2009 she has been our Inclusion Manager. Her impact on the lives of our pupils is immeasurable as she has provided support in every possible form to thousands of pupils who have attended Weobley. She is a great loss to the school and will be sadly missed however I wish her an enjoyable and well-earned retirement. Possibly our longest-ever serving member of staff is also retiring after, what we believe to be around 35 years of service! Margaret Hoskins is our cleaning supervisor who comes into school every evening to make sure that the classrooms are clean and ready for the following day. Prior to working here, Margaret was actually one of Weobley's first pupils – clearly this level of dedication is rare and I thank her for the many, many years of loyal and committed service – again, a very well-earned retirement beckons!

We are also saying farewell to our School Business Manager, Christine Bryan, who has worked here since 2011. She has been an outstanding member of my leadership team and guided the school through one of the most challenging periods of education budget cuts in recent history. She will now become the Director of Finance at Herefordshire's largest high school in Ross-on-Wye and we wish her well in her new job. Finally, Miss Rose, who has been working in the English Department just for this term, will be returning to work in Cardiff – We wish her the best of luck for the future.



NEW ARRIVALS

We have a number of new staff joining us in September. Firstly we have appointed a new Inclusion Manager; Mrs Davies. She has worked in Herefordshire for many years as the School Nurses' Assistant and may already be known to many of our pupils and their families. We also have a new(ish) School Business Manager; Mr Lindup. Some of you may well remember Mr Lindup as he worked here before Mrs Bryan and so knows the school very well already.

Mrs Wood will also be joining us as a Cover Supervisor; she was previously a Head of Expressive Arts in a large secondary school and has worked here occasionally over the past year on supply. We also have a Miss Wood who will be joining as an Additional LSA. In addition, we have 2 teachers joining us; Mrs Collyer will be joining the English department, having worked here briefly already this year on a very-part-time basis and Miss Cooksey will be taking over as our Head of Music whilst Mrs Lowry goes on maternity leave early in September.



SCHOOL REPORTS

You will be aware that this year we have revamped our school reporting system. You are now able to access your child's school report at your convenience via the Parent Portal. You will be informed each time your child's report is issued so you can read or download it as you prefer. Our new School App will also make this even easier. Please ensure that you access your child's report as soon as it is issued so that you are kept fully aware of the progress your child is making at school and any issues which may need addressing. Please contact the School Office if you have any difficulty with this. Thank you.

PLEASE NOTE:

ALL PUPILS ARE REQUIRED TO OWN STUDED FOOTWEAR FOR PE.



Get the App!!!

We are pleased to inform you that we have introduced a new app service to the school. This is a one-stop shop for keeping in touch with any aspects of school life. OurSchoolsApp is a personalised app to our school and will allow us to keep you all updated with school information, news, calendar events and contact information. Access to the Parent Portal and Parent Pay is also available.

If you have a smartphone (Android or iPhone) you can download OurSchoolsApp from Google Play Android or the Apple Store for FREE. Access is also available on a tablet and iPad by following the same download process.

When we update OurSchoolsApp with new information or news about the school, a push message notification will automatically be sent to your device to inform you of this update. You can then view the notification which will then take you directly to our app.

Instructions for download:

1. Using your device (iPad, iPhone, smart pad, tablet or android phone), visit the relevant marketplace for your product (Apple Store or Google Play).
2. Search for **'OurSchoolsApp'** and download the app.
3. Once downloaded, use the search bar within the app and enter the postcode or the name of the school.
4. Hit the search button.
5. Once you see the school name displayed, just touch the screen on the school name.
6. Confirm your choice by pressing 'OK'.
7. You will now be presented with the correct app for your chosen school which contains news, information, calendar events, contacts and any other relevant details.

We highly recommend all parents/carers downloading this app. For more details, please contact the school office.



LEGO CLUB

Over the past few months Lego Clubbers have enjoyed discovering the contents of some recently donated boxes of Lego. We were all very excited and Lego creativity has been boundless and we have produced an array of items which are adapted, altered and redesigned on a weekly basis.

Our club is enjoyed by many students with all the different year groups represented one week or another. Even some of our visiting year 6 students came to build towers. We make cars, street scenes, castles with battle scenes and have even filmed action Lego stories.

Lego Club meets twice a week in the ARC – come along next term and join us.



UNIFORM

It is usually at this time of year that you start to look at getting new uniform. Please check that any item you purchase is in line with our school uniform expectations so that you don't waste your money on clothing which is unacceptable for school. Skirts and skinny trousers in particular have been a concern this year.

Please check the school website where you will find a clear explanation of what is permitted. It seems to go in cycles and, although uniform is excellent on the whole, the small number of uniform issues create a great deal of work for staff. Your support in this matter is much appreciated.



IT'S ALL DOWN TO THE NUMBERS!!!

This year we took part in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge Regional Final held at Earl Mortimer College. This is an annual competition in which around 27 schools from Herefordshire and surrounding counties compete. As usual we took a team of excellent mathematicians from year 8 and year 9. The difference this year is that we had been in training. The team: Harry Wycherley; Lydon Strangeway; Jem Surucu and Dominik Thomas, along with other keen mathematicians from KS3 had been meeting every week to practise for the competition. On the day it was clear that the preparation had paid off.

The first round involved a series of increasingly challenging questions which the team had to answer in a fixed time. As their accompanying teacher I was assigned a different school to work with. All I could do was glance over and each time I did I could see extreme concentration and furious writing. Then came the crossnumber round – imagine a large and complicated crossword but with numbers instead of letters. Again, from what I could see, the team seemed to be on fire. Whilst the teams were doing the crossnumber I could see the organisers totting up scores from round 1 and after round 2 they read out the top 5 teams in no particular order. This list included four private schools and Weobley High School resulting in four big smiles and one very proud state school teacher. On to round 3, the shuttle round, where the team split in to two teams and had to wait for the other pair to feed them a number to do their calculation. Again, after this round the top 5 were read out and sure enough we were still in the top 5! Time for lunch. Over lunch several colleagues from other local schools came over to tell me they were rooting for us and I spoke to the teacher assigned to our team. He said that as well as their

Maths abilities he was also impressed by their impeccable manners and positive attitude. I spoke to the team too who were elated but a little worried as they thought the last round hadn't gone as well as rounds 1 and 2.

On to the final round – the relay! Now imagine a sports hall full of teenagers, most of whom are puzzling through complex Maths problems whilst some are furiously running around collecting new questions. The tension was palpable. Once that had finished there was a short break to tot up scores and catch breath before the results were announced. The tension at this point was almost unbearable.... We came sixth. Not the position our team hoped for but still an outstanding achievement and the best Weobley High School has achieved for a long time (if ever) and the best any state school achieved on the day. If there had been a prize for proudest Maths teacher, perhaps I would have won it.

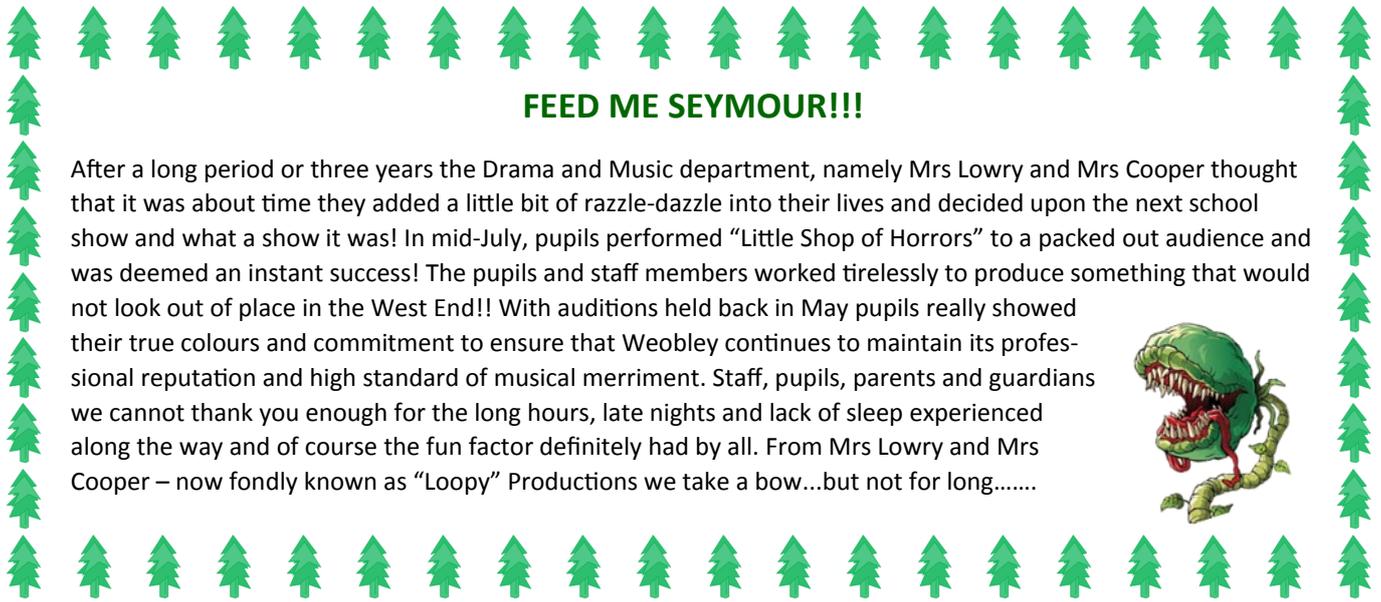
Mrs Churchward



Congratulations from the Mathematics Department to **Jem Surucu** who was invited to participate in the 2017 Junior Kangaroo Maths challenge following completion of UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. Whilst this in itself is an excellent achievement, Jem was also awarded a Merit certificate which places him in the top 25% of Candidates who had been invited. This represents the best ever achievement of a Weobley High School student.

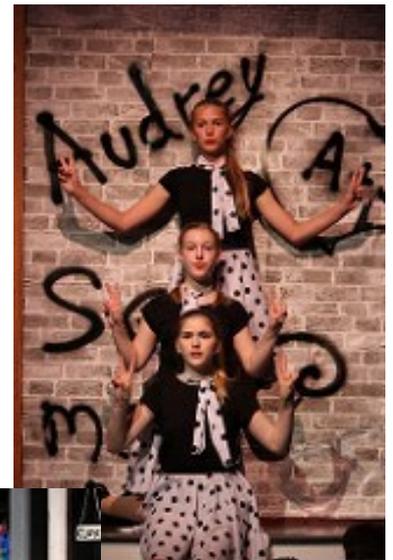
Well done Jem.





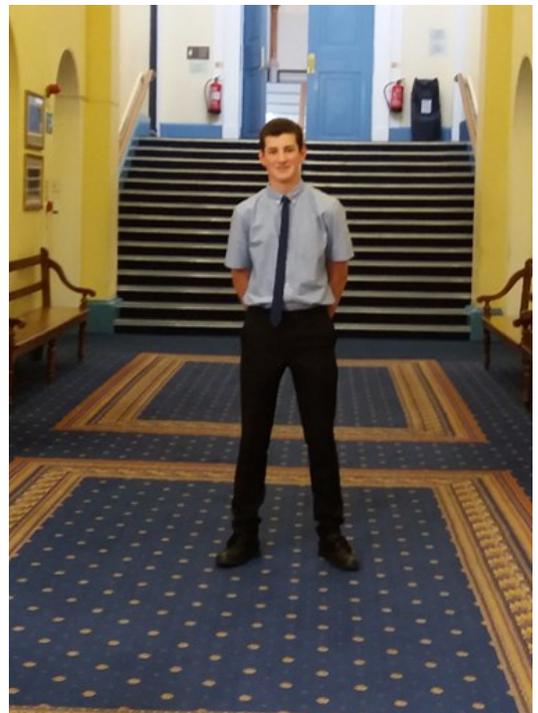
FEED ME SEYMOUR!!!

After a long period or three years the Drama and Music department, namely Mrs Lowry and Mrs Cooper thought that it was about time they added a little bit of razzle-dazzle into their lives and decided upon the next school show and what a show it was! In mid-July, pupils performed "Little Shop of Horrors" to a packed out audience and was deemed an instant success! The pupils and staff members worked tirelessly to produce something that would not look out of place in the West End!! With auditions held back in May pupils really showed their true colours and commitment to ensure that Weobley continues to maintain its professional reputation and high standard of musical merriment. Staff, pupils, parents and guardians we cannot thank you enough for the long hours, late nights and lack of sleep experienced along the way and of course the fun factor definitely had by all. From Mrs Lowry and Mrs Cooper – now fondly known as "Loopy" Productions we take a bow...but not for long.....



Work experience

Work experience was the highlight of the term for our now Year 11 students. They chose a variety of placements stretching across the county and beyond, with some venturing as far as Isle of Wight and Kent! Recording studios, ski centres, vets, carpenters, engineers, farmers, architects, retail, the Arts, manufacturing, teaching, childcare and animal care give a flavour of how individual our students are, and without exception they were great ambassadors for Weobley High. I am very proud of them all! Year 10, start getting your thinking caps on, you have a very high standard to follow.



Can you help?

Mrs Stokes, careers co-ordinator, is busy planning next term as we speak. She is looking for people to come to a speed networking event for our students. Do you have an interesting job? Are you passionate about your career? Are you an ex Weobley student perhaps? If you think you can help, please contact Mrs Stokes at dstokes@weobleyhigh.co.uk for details.

LIBRARY NEWS

Library News & Book Club

Hay Festival: Fourteen members of book club, Mrs Price and Mrs Hadley enjoyed a lovely sunny day at the festival this year and were entertained by three different authors (Alwyn Hamilton, Daniel Morden and Pete Kalu) who talked about their writing and the books they had published.



Carnegie Book Awards: This year's eight nominated books were quite a challenge for book club with some sensitive and controversial themes. A great day was spent on the 13th June, along with seven other Herefordshire schools, at the Shire Hall in Hereford where members of the book club excelled themselves with a presentation on our selected book ('Beck' written by Mal Peet) and everyone voted for their favourite book. The winning book was 'Salt to the Sea' by Ruta Sepetys.

Meet the Author Tom Palmer: A group of year 8 pupils went along to one of the Hereford Literature Festival events in Ledbury on the 21st June, with Miss Harrington-Hay and Mrs Hadley, where the author of 'Football Academy' and 'Ghost Stadium', Tom Palmer, entertained us. Hollie Davies was our "star of the day" and she brought away a little trophy for our school after winning a football reading game. We couldn't have been more excited to see her rise to victory!



English Department update: All of these opportunities have allowed our pupils to immerse themselves in new literature and the discussions that we have had with the students on their return have only confirmed how beneficial these visits have been. All of the texts read, as part of book club and beyond, have promoted a love of reading in our pupils and work well to support the novels studied at KS3 and KS4. We can't wait to get our teeth into more!



6 Book Reading Challenge

Summer 17

Ok boys are you up to challenging the girls? Can it be a boy that wins the 6 Book Challenge this summer?

All you need to do is read 6 books and write a review on one of them. There are definitely lots of you who love reading out there so come and pick up a book from the library or even read on line.

INTERESTED

Collect a form from Mrs Hadley in the library or ask your English Teacher for one

Win a £10 Book Voucher

Buzzing with Excitement

Year 9 enjoyed an excellent production of Lord of the Flies at The Courtyard. The students loved the intimate atmosphere afforded by the venue and witnessed some superb performances from talented actors - all of which assisted in their engagement with the text.



Year 11 Prom June 2017

Munstone House, Hereford played host to our Year 11 pupils for their Annual Leavers Prom 2017. Everyone looked stunning with the girls modelling some amazing dresses.

Awards were issued through out the night as chosen by members of staff. Prom Queen was Eva Stanwell, Prom King; Callum Walker, and Best Transport to Harry Bantham-Jones how arrived on his donkey dressed as a Mexican!!! Special thanks to the Prom committee for organising such a successful evening.

Our Best Wishes to each and every one of you.





Will and Emyr Truelove

Will is part of Welsh Cycling's official youth development programme and he has just been selected to race for Wales at the Ride London Youth Grand Prix on 28 July,

We are also very excited about Will also being selected to race for Wales in August at two races in Belgium, where he will also train on some of the classic cobbled climbs which are known as the "bergs" e.g. Koppenberg.

Emyr is racing in the under

12s in his second year in that category. He has had a great season with the stand-out result being his win of the 3 day stage race on the Isle of Man - this is part of British Cycling national series and he was awarded the yellow jersey and a wonderful trophy. Emyr also recently came 4th in National Championship in Milton Keynes.



Mallie West

Mallie was picked for the Herefordshire U18 badminton squad that went to the National County tournament and won a match for the first time in the county's history. They went on to win a second match and missed coming 26th out of 36 by only point difference.



Mallie is attending the Worcestershire development programme over the summer holidays.



Matthew Kendal

Matthew is a regular front-runner at the local Herefordshire Raceway. He won the Junior Winter Championship this year, held the outright lap record twice, is leading the current Junior Championship and second in the current Open Championship - in fact, he won the latest round of each last Sunday. The usual qualifying age for the Open is fourteen - Matt drove his first Open by invitation last year, when he was twelve.

Matt started on his eleventh birthday and has progressed steadily since. He is renowned for being fast and consistent, and his focus is formidable - he seldom, if ever, makes mistakes, and most of the opposition cannot live with him at all.



Will Pugh, Jack Goodwin & Jack Lewis

The 3 boys have been selected once again for the Worcester Warriors Development Rugby squads in their respective age groups. This is a great achievement as Worcester Warriors pick from Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Stafford and Warwick.



PLEASE NOTE: ALL PUPILS WILL NOW BE REQUIRED TO OWN STUDED FOOTWEAR FOR PE LESSONS.



Inspiring Others

Sam Curd, Jack Goodwin, Mallie West and Tia Froom have been selected for the Talent Inspirational Sporting Programme at Loughborough University over the summer holidays. This programme offers the opportunity of a lifetime to a select group of outstanding young athletes. These are the very best athletes who consistently demonstrate outstanding qualities on and off the field. Practical and theory sessions are delivered by ex-Olympic athletes or international players; making the experience very exciting and unique.

Anna Stowell

Anna has represented Worcester RFC U15s in the National Cup final which they narrowly lost. She has also represented the West Midlands U18s and is trying to encourage more girls into rugby. If you would like to know more about girl's rugby please feel free to ask Anna.

If we have missed the achievements of your child, please share them with us as we always want to encourage pupils in any sporting activity. Please contact Mr West for more information.

