

Newsletter

ISSUE 430

Of great merit, character & value



Computer Science and Photography Update

Pupils are enjoying being in the new suites in the new building. Key Stage 4 classes are working through revision materials, ahead of their exams. Students have access to SharePoint revision resources and practice questions from home. Both in Key Stage 3 and 4, students continue to practice their programming skills using Python, developing and applying more complex skills as they progress through the units of learning.

Pupils in Key Stage 3 have been introduced to newly designed e-workbooks for each unit of work. This includes lessons in both theory and practical programming units of work.



```

main.py
1 score = 0
2 print("Hello today you will be asked a few questions about")
3 print("the first question is how many players are there on a rugby pitch")
4
5 response = input()
6
7 if response == 23:
8     print("Correct!")
9     score += 1
10 else:
11     print("How sorry you are wrong!")
12
13 print("Question 2 how many mistakes are there in the 1981 world cup")
14
15 response = input()
16
17 if response == 1:
18     print("Correct!")
19     score += 1
20 else:
21     print("How sorry you are wrong!")
22
23 print("Question 3 how do the 1981 play in their match against england")
24
25 response = input()
26
27 if response == "lose":
28     print("Correct!")
29     score += 1
30
31 print("score is", score)
  
```

Above is part of a Rugby-themed quiz designed by a Year 8 pupil, using Python.



Pupils are learning how to use Python to programme through different activities.

Pupils screen shot their programming skills to develop a skills portfolio as they progress through Key Stage 3.

Things to try at home:

Coding practice for beginners:

- **Code.org:** Offers, among others, popular block-based games like Minecraft or Star Wars to introduce programming logic
- **Blockly Games:** A Google-powered site using block-based puzzles to teach the foundations of programming.

As well as..

- **Scratch:** Excellent for beginners to build their own games using block-based coding. We use this in KS3.
- **Lightbot:** A simple, effective puzzle game focused on logical sequencing for beginners.
- **SQL Island:** A browser game designed to teach SQL queries

Woldgate Photography Club

Photography club has been running since January and we have a lovely group of keen photographers, from Years 9 to 11, who attend every Wednesday after school.

So far, we have covered camera basics, using a tripod, use of back drops, composition, shutter speed, panning and some digital imaging techniques using Adobe Photoshop.

Next term, pupils are welcome to explore genres that are of interest to them, as well as continuing to develop more camera skills in aperture and depth of field, composition, and further digital and artistic techniques in editing.



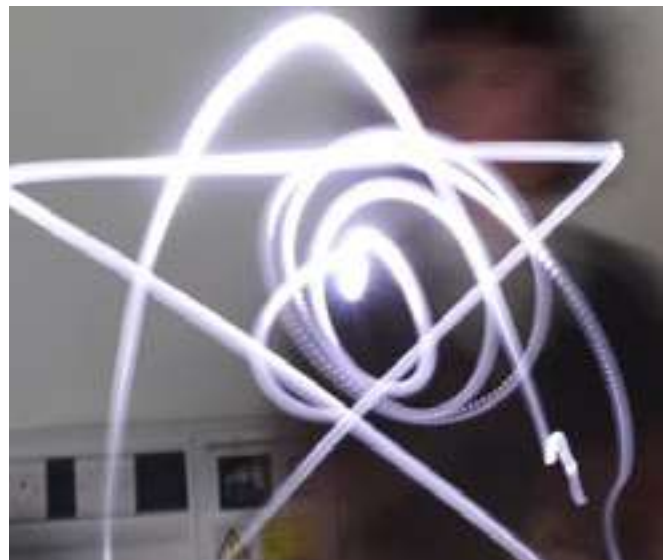
Form: The images below were experimental pieces, looking at the impact of form by looking through different objects.



Shutter speed

Recent work in photography club has been around using shutter speed to achieve different photography effects.

Light painting is achieved by a slow shutter speed (10 seconds). To allow this to work, students needed to use a tripod to keep the camera still which the subject moved. Pupils used torches to create different shapes and effects.



We also experimented using a fast shutter speed (one tenth of a second) to capture objects falling into coloured water.

Photography Club is open to students in Years 9-13 and is on Wednesday after school from 3:30pm until 4:30pm.

New pupils wishing to join, should see Mrs Postill in T4 for information.



Photography Competition – ‘Formal elements’.

Pupils are invited to submit photographs for a ‘formal elements’ competition.

Photographs should creatively represent one or more of the formal elements of line, colour, texture, pattern and space.

Entries should be sent / given to Mrs Postill in T4 by 20th April 2026.





Headteacher's Welcome

As we reach the end of what has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding term, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our pupils and students, families and wider community for their continued support.

This term has offered a wealth of enriching experiences for our young people, not least the wonderful trip to Naples that has taken place this week. Alongside these opportunities, there has been a clear and unwavering focus on ensuring that pupils are receiving the highest-quality preparation for their forthcoming examinations and their next steps within school.



Looking ahead, next term will bring renewed momentum as final preparations for examinations continue and the exam season begins. It will also mark an important period of reflection and refinement, as we continue to strengthen what happens every day in our classrooms so that all pupils experience exceptional teaching, feel successful in their learning and have a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

A central strand of this work is our continued commitment to reading and to the development of a rich, language-focused curriculum. Words are fundamental: they unlock understanding across all subjects and deepen pupils' engagement with the wider world. As highlighted in last year's Ofsted report, reading is a significant strength of our school. We are proud of the work that has taken place to ensure that pupils read widely and for pleasure, and that those facing the greatest barriers receive timely and effective support to catch up quickly.

We are pleased to continue embracing the **National Year of Reading 2026**, described by the National Literacy Trust as *"the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives."* The campaign recognises that while reading expands our world and sharpens our minds, fewer people are finding time to read. As a Department for Education initiative, delivered



in collaboration with the National Literacy Trust, it aims to address the decline in reading enjoyment and to reconnect people of all ages with reading as a relevant and immediately rewarding activity. The campaign encourages the nation to Go All In on their passions and interests throughout 2026, discovering how reading can unlock the things they already love - from music and football to baking, family time, science fiction and much more.

We warmly encourage families to support reading at home over the Easter break - a valuable opportunity to rest, recharge and rediscover the shared joy of books.

We look forward to welcoming pupils back after the break rested and ready to learn, in the correct uniform, and with a clear determination to ensure that everything they do reflects great merit, great character and great value.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Mrs Adams
Headteacher

Key dates

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the [Woldgate School Calendar](#).

- 30th March-10th April:** Easter Holidays
- Thursday 2nd April:**..... Blood Brothers Theatre Trip
- Friday 17th April:**..... Pocklington Arts Centre Open Evening
- Tuesday 21st April:** Year 11 High Achiever Evening – English and Maths
- Monday 4th May:**..... May Bank Holiday – School Closed
- Thursday 7th May:**..... Year 10 Parents’ Evening
- 11th May- 19th June:**..... GCSE and A-Level exam season
- Wednesday 13th & 20th May:** Year 6 Welcome Evenings
- 25th-29th May:** Half Term Holiday
- Thursday 11th June:** Year 12 Parents’ Evening
- Thursday 25th June:**..... Year 7 Parents’ Evening

How does your attendance impact your future?



Data released by the UK Department for Education shows that the lower your attendance the less likely you are to achieve in your GCSEs.

100%

82%

Achieved 5 GCSEs
Grade 5+

(inc. Maths and English)

OVER 95%

77%

Achieved 5 GCSEs
Grade 5+

(inc. Maths and English)

92%-93%

53%

Achieved 5 GCSEs
Grade 5+

(inc. Maths and English)

BELOW 90%

43%

Achieved 5 GCSEs
Grade 5+

(inc. Maths and English)

Research shows that for every 17 days you miss across your school career, your GCSE results go down by one whole grade!



Achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 5+ has shown to increase your lifetime earnings by **41%**

There are
365 DAYS
in a year

175
are not spent
in school!

**That gives you plenty of time for holidays, TV, shopping and video games.*




Rewards

Rewards for the Week

Our school motto is **'Everything we do should be worthy of great merit, character and value'**, and every day our pupils' efforts, contributions and achievements are recognised with rewards that reflect these values.

Our pupils understand these core values as being the foundation of successful learning, and a successful life, and each of the rewards holds a special significance.

252,082

MERIT

42,007

CHARACTER

24,335

VALUE

670,953

TOTAL

Our School Houses

Every pupil belongs to one of our five Houses, representing our local countryside. Pupils can be awarded House points for exceptional contributions to school life, and for participating in House competitions and events, and all rewards contribute to each House reward total.

314,370

HOUSE TOTAL



Awards

Headteacher Awards

The Headteacher Award is given to those exceptional pupils and students who achieve the highest number of rewards in their year group each week.

The recipients of the Headteachers Awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Scarlett Sinclair
- Year 8:** Ledley Frankland
- Year 9:** Ellen Greensted
- Year 10:** Jenson Hatch
- Year 11:** Grace Warren
- Year 12:** Harry Bishop
- Year 13:** Adam Brown

Acts of Great Character

The moral qualities that define an individual. For example, demonstrating kindness, offering support or actively engaging with the wider community.

The pupils with the most Great Character awards last week were:

- Year 7:** James Richardson
- Year 8:** Lexi Medforth
- Year 9:** Leo Duncan
- Year 10:** Eva Benson-Harrold
- Year 11:** Autumn Dobson
- Year 12:** Ollie Bailey
- Year 13:** Adam Brown

Acts of Great Merit

The quality of being particularly good or worthy, especially deserving of praise or reward. For example, the production of an outstanding piece of classwork, home learning or an outstanding assessment outcome.

The pupils with the most Great Merit awards last week were:

- Year 7:** James Richardson
- Year 8:** Ledley Frankland
- Year 9:** Joni White
- Year 10:** Jenson Hatch
- Year 11:** Oliver Brack
- Year 12:** Saffron Bond
- Year 13:** Iona McTernan

Acts of Great Value

The principles or standards of conduct we work to; those acts and skills that are valued by our wider society. For instance, the ability to demonstrate emotional intelligence, to communicate effectively or be a leader of a team.

The pupils with the most Great Value awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Scarlett Sinclair
- Year 8:** Lacie Dodsworth
- Year 9:** Liam Reeson
- Year 10:** Max Burton
- Year 11:** Amelia Ellis
- Year 12:** Astrid Church
- Year 13:** Martha Moore

Meet our Pupil Care Team



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Year 7**

Mrs F McDonough

year7@woldgate.net



**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Mrs C Wright

safeguarding@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Year 8**

Mrs S Oliver

year8@woldgate.net



Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien

01759 302395 Option 1
attendance@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Year 9**

Mrs S Clark

year9@woldgate.net



Attendance and Wellbeing

Mr J Marks

01759 302395 Option 1
attendance@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Year 10**

Mrs R Marsden

year10@woldgate.net



Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton

01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Year 11**

Mrs L Cavanagh

year11@woldgate.net



Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills

01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement
Coordinator: Sixth Form**

Mrs E Fairhurst

07790 987137
sixthform@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement Coordinator:
Diabetic Care and First Aid.**

Mrs L Kendra

lkendra@woldgate.net



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M1-M3

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Closing Date: 17th April 2026

Interview: 23rd April 2026

Apply: www.wlp.education