

THE BRIDGE



WOODBRIDGE
SCHOOL



Learning@Woodbridge

Festival of Voices

Telltale and Everyman

Careers Fair

Youth Poetry Festival

Young Poets Competition

Drama News

Sports Update

OW News

A BUSY AND SUCCESSFUL START TO THE SCHOOL YEAR



I hope you enjoy the latest edition of The Bridge which gives you just a flavour of all that goes on at Woodbridge.

This academic year has seen the launch of the intensive Spanish course, with one Year 9 group spending approximately twenty per cent of the week studying the language. Pupils have made rapid progress and, perhaps more importantly, really enjoyed it. We also had our first Careers Fair, open to all pupils in Suffolk, which was a triumph with over 450 young people attending. Many thanks to all OWs who helped and if you would like to help with our careers education,

please contact Izzie Brown.

Outside the classroom, particular highlights in sport included three teams in the national cross country finals, (which the junior boys won), four teams in the National Equestrian Finals, two teams in the regional hockey finals, one team in the county netball finals and 1st XV rugby team which finished the season having reached the quarter finals of the National Bowl competition. The CCF Army section won the Combat Cadet competition as well as the Cadet Skills at Arms meeting, while the CCF RAF section won the Cranwell Drill competition and came 4th overall. On the drama front, we had a superb Sixth Form production of Carol Ann Duffy's 'Everyman' and the first Year 7 & 8 play, 'Telltale'. The music has been as impressive as ever with particular highlights being performances from the Swing Band, Chamber Choir & Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band in the Michaelmas term, and a stunning Choral performance at Snape during the Lent term. Last but not least we had the inaugural Woodbridge School poetry competition, with entries from all over the county, followed by a wonderful evening of performance poetry.

A very busy and successful year so far! I am very much looking forward to seeing what the rest of it brings.

Neil Tetley
Headmaster, Woodbridge School

LEARNING@WOODBIDGE



There is little doubt that the world of work is changing rapidly and the speed of this process is only going to accelerate. Jobs are being automated, including those in more 'professional' roles, while others are being created.

Only recently the world's biggest hedge fund announced its plans to automate all buying and selling decisions (because computers can process much more data and will make less emotional decisions!). So what does this mean for young people and how should schools adapt to best prepare pupils for the future?

Results will remain important but this won't be enough. It will be vital that young people develop the skills and attributes that are least vulnerable to automation: creativity; problem solving; entrepreneurship; leadership and so on. These develop at the moment, albeit inconsistently, from a traditional independent school education with a broad range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities. But we can do better! At Woodbridge we are looking to develop these characteristics in a much more explicit and focused way. We have produced a list of fourteen attributes, entitled Learning@Woodbridge, that we would like to help our pupils develop. Rather than just having a 'creativity day' we are looking to ensure the development of these qualities as part of the everyday experience, both inside and outside the classroom. For example, in biology, pupils will look at photosynthesis and discuss resilience (what do we do when we are stuck?). In drama they will produce a devised piece and think about the nature of collaboration. Education needs to evolve. At Woodbridge we aren't just 'doing what we've always done' but adapting, while retaining academic rigour, to meet the demands young people will face in 2025, 2030 and beyond.

2016 OW DINNER

This year's OW Dinner saw OWs of all ages join together for a fabulous meal which included quail for the main course and chocolate genoise for dessert.

As ever, the evening started with a fabulous set from the Swing Band, with drinks served on the Chapel Lawn despite the chill in the air. Rain clouds threatened proceedings, but we were lucky, as the drops only began to fall as dinner was served.

This year we welcomed OWs from across seven decades, but the biggest contingent was of pupils from 1991, celebrating 25 years since leaving the School. OW President, Huw Turbervill, himself a 1991 leaver, gave an entertaining and highly inclusive speech, to chat to almost everyone in attendance whilst finding out amazing facts to regale us with along the way.

As ever, the dinner gave everyone a chance to reminisce about past times but equally to enjoy hugely the company of those with whom they spent their formative years.

A frequent comment afterwards is "I don't know why I don't come every year, it is so much fun and such a brilliant evening".

The next OW Dinner will be held on Saturday 9 September 2017 - please do come along and join us!



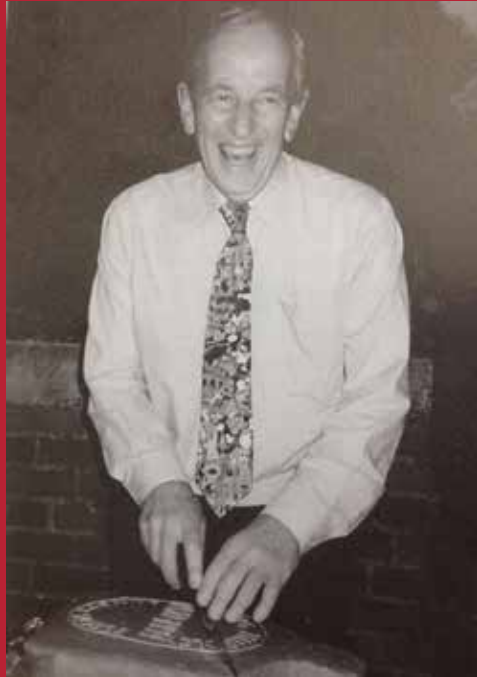
NEW OW PRESIDENT FOR 2017

We are delighted to announce that Graeme Bruce, teacher at the School from 1985 to 2015, will be taking over from our current President, Huw Turbervill, in September 2017.

Graeme has written about his time at Woodbridge in more depth on page 7.

We would like to thank Huw Turbervill very much indeed for taking on the role of President for not one, but two years!





In Memory of Douglas Hurdley 1993-2016

“A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning.”

Former American politician, Brad Henry, might have been describing Douglas Hurdley, the erstwhile Woodbridge School teacher, who sadly passed away last year. Former pupils queued up to pay tribute to the former Annott housemaster, English teacher, cricket and hockey coach who worked at the School from 1970 to 1994.

“A true gentleman. Tolerant. Considerate. Gentle. Kind. Fair. Wise. Funny. He had an interest in all his pupils... he tried to see the best in everyone. He smoothed the waters when I was a troubled teen.”

He saw the potential in people who found it hard to entirely conform. He seemed on your side, anti-establishment, but in a gentle, benevolent way. He would probably recoil at the modern term ‘blue-sky thinking’, but that is how he inspired people. Anything to interest and stimulate.

Having a favourite teacher is subjective of course, but we had many shared interests, especially cricket. One day in a general studies class the door opened, he sat down and without saying even hello, he recited Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’ – all 143 verses! Once the class recovered from the shock, it was spellbinding. There was barely a slip of the tongue.

We watched an episode of ‘The Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy’. Nowadays Douglas Adams’ sci-fi novel is seen as a cult classic, but back then it was far removed from the world of Adam Bede and ‘Dombey and Son’. Yes it was off-piste, but anything to foster the love of words.

Most unforgettable for me was the morning of January 22, 1987. I was 14. He switched on the TV to play ‘The Mayor of Casterbridge’ video, and BBC 1 was unexpectedly showing the closing moments of the World Series Cup clash between Australia and England in Sydney. England, with three wickets in hand, needed 18 off the last over. The class watched – with varying degrees of interest – Allan Lamb club the winning runs. Mr Hurdley discarded his lesson plan and invited us to write a report. He also brought his knowledge, patience and wisdom to the cricket (he was 2nd XI coach for many years) and hockey fields.

His teaching colleagues held him in great esteem too. Graeme Bruce says: *“He was avuncular and caring, engendered much loyalty and affection from those in his House and classes. A very supportive teacher, always with a merry quip or helpful word...”*



OW President, Huw Turbervill

CAREERS FAIR

Woodbridge School held its inaugural Careers Fair on Saturday 19 November.

In arranging the event, the School was keen to ensure there was something of interest for each and every teenager in Suffolk, and this aim was very much met. Nearly 70 stands were set up in the Sports Dome, representing a huge variety of career options for all, from universities and colleges, to apprenticeships, representatives from institutes and enterprise, the Civil Service, the Armed Forces, media, catering, boatbuilding, science and technology, law, motor racing, accountancy and many, many more. Many of those exhibiting were Old Woodbridgians, all keen to help current students at the School.

At 10am the doors opened and interested parents and students from across Suffolk began to flood in. Our own Sixth Formers were busy at the door greeting and handing out programmes, and it was apparent that the event was proving to be a huge success as we watched people moving from stand to stand, chatting animatedly, carrying piles of prospectuses and information, gaining a sense of future direction and taking the chance to ask questions about possible careers to pursue, and places to go.

Students and parents continued to arrive, a steady stream during the four hours that the event was open. The feedback was excellent: a wealth of choice, a fantastic chance to glean some ideas on which path in life to follow, and a bounty of information to be gained from our cheerful, interesting and well prepared exhibitors. The Tuckwell Room provided families a chance to relax with a coffee and a particularly good bacon sandwich, and to chat over their gathered information.

All in all, a very successful event, with over 450 people attending. The Careers Fair will definitely go ahead again on Saturday 18 November.



Alison Leask OW

A tribute by her brother, Stuart Leask OW



It is with great sadness that I report the loss of my sister, Alison Leask, who passed away in hospital in Oxford on 13 February after a year-long fight against cancer. She was 48.

Ali joined Woodbridge in September 1980 and was one of the original cohort of new girl boarders under the stewardship of Jill Lubbock, then housemistress of Tallents House. She flourished at Woodbridge School. Ali was popular, academically

very talented and had innate skills in art, calligraphy, design and needlework. In 1984 she created a magnificent embroidery banner of St Francis, to whom the School Chapel is dedicated, and which still resides in it to this day and is well worth seeing.

Ali was also known as an excellent hockey goalkeeper, playing for the School's 1st XI team from the age of just 15. To quote directly from one of her many friends: "...she managed to achieve excellence in everything she did, obviously academically, in school life in general and on the hockey field in particular. Playing against her in the mixed hockey matches was more terrifying than frustrating, not only a great keeper but a thoroughly intimidating one."

Ali went on to become Head Girl in her final year. After Woodbridge, she had a brief spell studying medicine at St Thomas Medical School in London, before abruptly changing course to study Landscape Design at both graduate and post-graduate level at Sheffield University. Following university, she developed a highly successful career as a Landscape Architect based initially in Scotland and more, recently, in the south of England.

Ali leaves behind two teenage daughters, Rosa and Lily, and an assortment of pets. She will be sorely missed.

OW UPDATES

Christmas Drinks at the King's Head

The days just before Christmas are convivial and never more than in the Barrack Room of the King's Head for the OW Christmas Drinks. It was very well attended again this year, with mostly OWs of fairly recent vintage (e.g. left within the last ten years or so) and so mostly recovering from another hard term at university or from a period of work in the real world; all seemed very happy to be back and so the conversation was animated and infectious. The range of current preoccupations was vast: animation to biochemistry; business to law; programming to medicine and even songwriting!

Jack Braithwaite is moving on to a PhD in biochemistry, and took the relentless ribbing by his friends very well. Rory Goldsmith is really enjoying his PGCE course in Physics at UEA, drawing inspiration from our own Stephen Cottrell; he's even a Norwich supporter. His friends told me of the blog he has been maintaining since his time at school and an interesting read it is too. Tom Elmer must have run up every hill in the north of England during his time at Newcastle, whilst finishing a Master's this year before going on to complete his medicine course there. Harry Golding is keen to move on to his job in law once he finishes his conversion course this summer. Beth Papworth made the right choice going to UEA for English, which is going really well for her. Jake Isabell is hugely enjoying being in Brighton for his music course. Ellen Franklin of course is burgeoning not only in her business administration course (as I knew she would) but also in her year-long placement in a London firm. Ed Jeffrey and George Rudland are now looking like sophisticated elder statesmen. Well, they did graduate several years ago now and are well established professionally.

This is such a good, uncomplicated event that you can dip in to and out of when you like, and there are so many people from a range of year groups, all in good moods that you are bound to find someone interesting to talk to. I'm just sorry it didn't last longer. *Graeme Bruce*



OLD WOODBRIDGIAN LONDON DRINKS

Date: Thursday 25 May 2017, From 7pm

Venue: The Tank and Paddle, London, EC3R 7AA



Old Woodbridgians

GRAEME BRUCE TO BECOME NEW OW PRESIDENT

February 1985 found me edging my way along the A45 (now the A14) from Cambridge, with snow blocking the outside lane. I missed my turn to Woodbridge, and then missed the school gate (no sign in those days) and got lost in the unfriendly one-way system. But despite being slightly late, I was offered a cup of instant coffee in the Common Room (where staff now photocopy) and was then interviewed by Dr David Younger, who was to take up the headship in September; I was his first appointment. I had been teaching for four years, and my ambition was to stay at Woodbridge for at least five years, to see a Year group through to O Level.

I managed that, except by then it was GCSE. Soon it was 2015 and I retired, having been teacher of French (6 years), Head of Modern Languages (11 years) and finally Director of Studies (having succeeded the legendary Mr Mileham).

What did I find in 1985? Girls were a slight novelty for older staff, and their uniform was a blue blouse and a plain grey skirt. And then there were those summer dresses. Boys wore mid-grey suits. The top of the “new teaching block” was languages, where you would find some of the few women on the staff, Mrs Mitchels and Miss Gosney, and the department was pervaded by the stale smell of coffee, Mr Still’s addiction. Lunch was approached through the black hole, not my favourite duty, and staff had to do Sunday afternoon Sports Hall duty. Fortunately our contract stipulated that we had to live within ten miles of the School. Saturday school still existed – a brilliant time for tests, or silent reading... CCF was a low-key affair but it wasn’t until Dr Broaderwick arrived in 1986 that I got involved with that and became part of its expansion. My only responsibility beyond the classroom, suggested by Mr Vyvan-Robinson in my short interview with him in his last year of headship, was to “help out with the French Exchange”. Keeping my word over the following 30 years, I actually spent 56 weeks on French exchanges and Sixth Form trips, 25 weeks on CCF annual camps and visited 17 countries with the School, including the expeditions to Iceland and Norway.

Throughout my time at the School I have been amazed at how it has grown and developed without losing its core of being a small community drawing pupils from diverse backgrounds, and giving them an excellent all-round education. One mother, who has three sons with very different talents and interests, said that Woodbridge had done brilliantly for all of them, and it was true. To keep in touch with that diverse group of people in your year, and those above and below that you knew through CCF, music, drama, and sport, is a real enrichment to life. I met some of my own old school friends recently, a couple with whom I had been through primary and secondary school but have not seen since we were 18, and it was such a rewarding experience; we all remembered different aspects of the same experiences and people. It was so much fun. I have shared some of that sense of excitement meeting OWs over the past couple of decades, and seeing just how many different areas of life they have gone in to. Just as pupils turn in to better people in the Sixth Form, Sixth Formers continue to mature beyond school; we all change and improve. I know that there are some exciting developments on their way for the Old Woodbridgians, and I am really looking forward to being part of that this year. I hope that you will be too, and that we can catch up with each other at the various events this year. À très bientôt j’espère! *Graeme Bruce*



WOODBIDGE YOUTH POETRY FESTIVAL

The inaugural Woodbridge Youth Poetry Festival (WYPF) saw 10 poets conducting interactive workshops with Woodbridge pupils in a true celebration of poetry leading up to the Poetry in Aldeburgh Festival. WYPF started with six poets holding workshops for Years 7 & 8- Ian Griffiths, Fred Ellis, Carol Lawrence, Rosalynde Price, Tim Gardiner and our very own Mrs Davis.

In the afternoon, the Woodbridge Young Poets Competition prize-giving took place in the Seckford Theatre.

The evening saw a poetry reading by two wonderful modern poets, both new and shining lights in the poetry world, Vanessa Kisuule and Mark Grist, all hosted by the wonderful Amy Soapbox. Those in the audience who were perhaps unsure what to expect were soon watching in rapt delight as Vanessa took to the stage: charming, engaging, drawing us in as she talked openly about her feelings on bullying, social integration and family through her poems. Vanessa's Q & A session, which she charmingly delivered sat comfortably on the edge of the stage, gave more and more insight into this fascinating, delightful and inspirational young woman. We were all starstruck.

Next the delightful and dynamic Mark Grist, an English teacher from Peterborough - or a rapper, a pug lover, a beacon of hope for the disadvantaged, all wrapped up as a poet with the gift of the stand-up comedian.

Two hours passed in a flash and everyone left smiling, laughing, and keen to meet Mark and Vanessa, not least the large number of pupils in attendance, who formed an orderly queue to talk to them after the event. This may have been the first poetry event that the Seckford Theatre had hosted, but it will certainly not be the last.

Our Sixth Form A Level students were also lucky enough to experience a workshop with Mark the following day.

The Abbey pupils enjoyed an interactive reading at the Seckford Theatre with poets Rachel Piercey and John Canfield from The Emma Press. Years 5 & 6 from The Abbey, along with Waldringfield and Nacton Primary schools, stomped and roared as Minotaurs, whistled and roared as the sea, delighted in choosing their Martian style in a poem about the planets, and were frightful as monsters as they took on the guise of the fearful Ginny Green Teeth. In the afternoon, John and Rachel stayed for workshops at The Abbey.

A wonderful first year for youth poetry, and the first of more to come!



WOODBIDGE YOUNG POETS COMPETITION

Young poets across Suffolk were celebrated at the inaugural Woodbridge Young Poets Competition. After attracting over 450 entries in its first year, the competition ended with a special prize-giving event held for 24 young winners at The Seckford Theatre.

The overall competition winner in the Junior category (ages 7-11) was Chloe Morgan at The Abbey, who wrote a thoughtful poem 'The Power of the Sea'. Junior runner-up was Aurelia Hibbert, also from The Abbey, who wrote the poem 'Firework'. Abbey pupils were particularly successful in the Junior section of the competition, with Beatrice Liddy receiving a highly commended award for her poem 'The Secret', whilst Alex Crawford won a commended award for his poem 'Orchestra'. Alice Sharratt was also commended for her poem 'In My Mind' and Woodbridge Senior School pupil Katie Hobday received a high commended award for her poem 'I should Like' which was written whilst she was still a pupil at Kyson Primary School.

Woodbridge pupils also featured in the Senior section of the competition, with Alfie Davis winning a highly commended award for his poem 'The Girl at the Window', whilst Lia Schreiber, Madeleine Cheshire and Sam Bryant all won commended awards for their poems 'Your Ability to Trust', 'Love' and 'I Don't Want It'. The Senior section winner and runner up were Archie Gault and Beth Cope from One Sixth Form College.

The judges Ian Griffiths, former Chairman of the Suffolk Poetry Society, and Fred Ellis of Poetry Anglia were delighted by the outstanding quality of all of the competition entries - indeed describing their judging task as exceptionally difficult. All 24 winning entries were warmly introduced by Fred and Ian who detailed the powerful reasons why they had won, and when the poems were read aloud by their authors, the fantastic quality of the winners was truly revealed. You could have heard a pin drop in the audience as they delighted in the excellence of the work, on themes happy to sad; light and dark; but all wonderful.



FESTIVAL OF VOICES *At The*

A festival - 'a celebration' - and so it was, embracing the enthusiasm, skill, passion and talents of well over 100 to such heights.

Cantabile - stunningly melodious, and beautifully measured: poignant pieces, witty arrangements, mixing the secular and the religious with graceful aplomb and mesmerising musicianship. The Baritone and balanced rendering of two classic songs given new heart and soul. A wonderfully clever cover of The buzz at the interval was electric - here was an audience in the thrall of something very different. Its take on a very international repertoire, mixing brave solo voice with unison and harmony. Mozart's Ave Verum with a professional chamber orchestra; and then it was all (senior) hands on deck. Three quite outstanding soloists: Florence Gidney, David Spray and Owen Butcher.

A magical evening of song. Congratulations to all the performers, and of course to Ms Westwood in memory of Mr Stafford, and to Mr Penny who rightly took the final bow at this, his final Woodhouse.



Britten Studio, Snape Maltings

over a hundred of our pupils from eight to eighteen, not forgetting the brilliant staff who guided them

s, and crystal clear from the start. The Chamber Choir - the pinnacle, and at the top of its game, membershop - not just a case of half a dozen snappy dressers having fun, but a wonderfully nuanced coming together of youth and experience as Cantabile followed where the Chamber Choir led. special. And the second half measured up in spades. The Abbey Chapel Choir delighted with to joyous effect; the Chamber Choir returned to take glorious advantage of a chance to sing to the pump for the Choral Society's powerful performance of Schubert's Mass in G featuring

n and her inspirational team of singing teachers, to Mrs Williams, to Mr Milton, to the Abbridge School Snape concert.



TELLTALE

Wise beyond their years, the junior cast of Year 7 & 8 pupils took an enraptured audience on a journey across continents and beyond the realm of the living as it explored myths and legends from Serbia, India and Greece. Telltale...

Wealth and worldly goods come to the generous of heart: we thought that was to be Serbian Vila's mountainous message... but then the easy platitude dropped away to reveal an altogether deeper plea to us to live not just for ourselves but for others, and not just once but as a matter of course. We mourned the father, but delighted in redemptive self discovery out of the despair of loss. No such easy transition for Orpheus, stripped of his love by a debt unknown but brutally called in. There again, this was a powerful love not to be thwarted by mere death, and here the poignancy of memory as a warming comfort was enough to ease the helplessness of physical loss. No morals to ponder from India, but instead a witty and delightful twist in the tale redolent of Roald Dahl (though perhaps not quite so macabre) to resolve local difficulties with noisy teenagers. Much more effective than ASBOs. And rounded off with a nod to Slumdog Millionaire to help us remember that not all boys are necessarily boisterous. And then back to Serbia, and seven little Vlachs, five brothers, two tzars, a beautiful daughter, and trouble with the neighbours. To think that all it takes to resolve a problem is to say nothing... wise words indeed - or no wise words indeed. There again, fun and games are not enough for friendships beyond fair weather. We think the boys got what they deserved. As did mum. Good for her! And good for all the actors across four immensely enjoyable performances brought together so cleverly for us by Head of Junior Drama, Mrs Brett, and OWs Flora Douglas and Harry Salter.



EVERYMAN

Poor lad. He had it all. Loadsamoney and much else besides. Women too. So much for all that, when Death came for a visit.

The morality play that is Everyman has been with us for over 600 years, recasting itself to every new generation sometimes simply through its staging and sometimes more fundamentally through a reinterpretation. Carol Ann Duffy's 2015 adaptation is taut with disquiet and laced with unsettling references to our generation's louche, destructive underbelly. The Sixth Form cast did extraordinary justice to her message in a performance that was mesmerising, witty, abrasive, and electric in its energy and capacity to shock - like a static jolt when one least expects it which almost hurts, yet leaves one cautiously excited for the next. We don't relish an encounter with Death such as this (the reckoning would not go so well, for one thing): all Cockney-mocking swagger, with a grim certainty to her every action that the Krays might have been pleased to employ. No wonder Everyman, brilliantly tortured, by himself as much as by her, wheeled to no avail in search of respite. God's resigned despair seemed all the more depressing as a result: helpless in the abject failure of her glorious project - save for her ability to call in Death to make amends. Family and knowledge, goods and deeds, friends and fairweather came and went, leaving Everyman to his fate, and the audience to its thoughts: we should do better, be better, check our account for a little more on the credit side, and look well beyond our own tiny horizons. How timely. Frighteningly so.



National Cross Country Champions!



The Junior Boys cross country team won first place in its debut appearance at the England Schools' Athletics Association (ESAA) Cross Country Cup. The pupils were the only school to represent Suffolk against school teams from eight other regions.

The six pupils - Charlie Turner, Henry Dinwiddy, Kit Evans Lombe, William Franklin, Edward

Rufford and Thomas Turner, formed one of 24 school teams (141 competitors) competing in the Junior Boys race, and were one of three teams to represent Woodbridge School at the event.

Woodbridge School's Director of Sport said " I am incredibly proud of the Junior Boys team for its outstanding performance; we were all thrilled to reach the ESAA national finals but to come first is an amazing accomplishment. Well done to the team and to our voluntary running club coach, Mark Goddard. Congratulations also to the Junior Girls and Inter Girls teams who also gave an exceptional effort at the event".

The ESAA Cross Country Cup national final was held in December in Formby, Lancashire. It was the first time in history that Woodbridge School had qualified for the event.

1st RUGBY UPDATE: NATIONAL CUP DOMINATES

The focus during the season has very much been on the Natwest Cup, which the team entered for the very first time. This gave the team the opportunity to pit its skills and abilities against a new wave of opposition.

The cup started in September with a match against Colchester Rotal Grammar School 1st, an intimidating first round match. The team played some excellent rugby and made significant inroads into the opposition defence, however the match was lost 12-24, putting Woodbridge through to the Bowl competition, perhaps a slightly better fit for Woodbridge this season.

The first of the Bowl matches took place against Saffron Walden County High. Woodbridge started the game with fantastic pace, continuing its dominant performance throughout the match despite some silly errors that gave ground to the opposition. A half time pep talk saw Woodbridge find a strong attacking pace; Woodbridge took the game 18-8 and moved to the next round.

The next match against King's Peterborough saw the team on very confident form, immediately on the front foot and on the attack. After 10 minutes, Woodbridge was entirely in control of the game; by half time the score was 12-0 to Woodbridge. A stunning second half driven by Kieran Saxton, together with outstanding play from James Bellhouse, Fynn Kiley, James Brown and Thomas Innes, saw Woodbridge take the game 33-0.

The next game against Beaumont saw the 1st team continue on its winning run in the competition, with a winning score of 34-14 taking Woodbridge into the final eight of the National competition.

The quarter finals saw Woodbridge welcome Wycliffe School from Gloucester. A stunning start from Woodbridge, but Wycliffe put up a serious fight, although the Woodbridge defence held defiantly. The action was unrelenting, and a yellow card for Tom Lomas after a high tackle saw Woodbridge go a man down. At half time, the team held a narrow 12-11 lead. Woodbridge rallied and attacked from deep, despite Wycliffe taking the lead after half time. Outstanding play from Rupert Clogg, Hugo Kelleway, Tom Innes and Will Pilkington saw Woodbridge really start to dominate the match, winning 29-14. A great team performance, but special mention must go to Hugo Kelleway for his orchestrating at fly half.

We then welcomed Old Swinford Hospital School for the semi-final match. Despite outstanding play by the team, it was not meant to be. Woodbridge came out of the National Cup losing valiantly to the OSH team, 22-5. However, the team should be so proud; making it through to the semi-final of the National Cup is no mean feat. We would like to thank our boys who have worked, trained and played so hard for the School throughout the year.



Equestrian team takes second place in National Show Jumping Championships



A young team of Ada Marson (Y6), Perdita Ludgrove (Y6), Olivia Lubbock (Y7) and Fleur Ludgrove (Y8) really pulled together in the final round to take 2nd place in the NSEA Plate 75cms Show Jumping Championships at the College Equestrian Centre, Keysoe.

After the first round the team was lying in 6th position going into the final round. The course increased in complexity and went up in height to 80-85cms, but the young team of Woodbridge girls held it together to produce a steady clear from Perdita, a fast clear round for both Fleur and Ada, and an exceptionally fast round from Olivia who unfortunately knocked 2 poles which resulted in 8 penalty points.

The other teams suffered under the pressure, but Woodbridge climbed through the ranks to finish 2nd overall which was a fantastic achievement for all involved.

Fleur also took 2nd place in the Santa Stakes competition with the whole team being awarded 3rd place in the Eventers Challenge Qualifier, a competition that took place after the main championship finals. with Fleur also awarded 6th place individually.

A superb way to finish an incredibly successful term for all Woodbridge School riding team riding team members that have competed so far this academic year.

GIRLS' HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS

The 2016 season brought some great performances together with many team and individual successes. Most importantly, it saw nearly all of the female pupil body playing this team sport with enthusiasm, whilst developing their skills and athleticism as well as building friendships and team spirit. Most girls had the opportunity to represent the School in matches and they did this in the most impressive and passionate way – irrespective of the outcome.

Where to begin to summarise some of the special moments and memories from the hockey season?

At Junior level (Y7 & 8) Woodbridge had a number of success stories. The Junior 1st team had a very successful season, winning 7 of its 8 full length matches. 26 goals were scored in the process with only 9 against. Olivia Buchanan was the team's top goal scorer, scoring 12 very impressive goals (including 4 goals per match on two occasions). At Senior level, the talented Issy Eaton started playing in goal and proved very difficult to beat. Molly Marshall (captain), Ella Walker and Clara Simpson were all influential members of the School team and also represented Suffolk.

The Junior 4 was the most successful team during the season, remaining unbeaten in its four matches. The team won 3 and drew one, scoring 11 goals and conceding just 2.

The U14A team also achieved success at county level. They finished second in the County Cup and went on to represent Suffolk at the regional round where they finished 6th. Players also represented Suffolk on an individual level: Ianthe Hill, Flora Pitt and Annabel Yates.

At Senior level, Woodbridge contested each match extremely well, with talented new Year 11 & 12 players stepping into the 1st team, while experienced players in both the 1st and 2nd teams set the example of what it means to give your all for your team. The 2nd team secured fighting victories against Langley and New Hall.

Sadly the School now says goodbye to a number of Y13 players as this was their last season playing hockey for Woodbridge; their commitment and team spirit will leave behind a legacy. Thank you.

OW BOARDER PROFILE: Aisha A Al Kharusi



An Omani national and daughter of a diplomat, Aisha joined Year 10 at Woodbridge School in 1988 as a boarder. At the time, she lived in Queen's House (now the School's pre-prep), and shared a room with eight other girls, all British, and was one of just a handful of foreign pupils. She stayed at Woodbridge School for three years, leaving in 1991 to attend university in Washington DC, USA. Aisha has won several awards, and much recognition, for her achievements during her career. Now back in Oman, having lived in eight different countries during her life so far, Aisha places social responsibility at the heart of her mandate.

"I am Assistant General Manager and Head of Government and Institutional Banking of Oman's Alizz Islamic Bank. I am also a member of the Bank's Executive Management team, and the most senior woman executive at the Bank, having initially started my career here as Chief Marketing Officer.

Before joining Alizz, I was the Executive Manager of Communications and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as well as Head of Strategy at the National Bank of Oman – the country's oldest commercial bank. I spearheaded the production of the first Sustainability Report into the Banking industry in Oman. My CEO at the time was coincidentally also an Old Woodbridgian; Mr Murray Sims, now General Manager of Commercial Banking of Dubai.

Between 2003 through to 2008, I worked for the world's leading aerospace company, Boeing, based in Dubai, UAE. I held the position as Deputy Regional Director, Boeing International, covering ten countries in the Middle East, representing the International Relations department. I left as the country's first ever female executive to work for Boeing, as well as the first Omani to lead as an associate for the world's largest aerospace company.

I have held several roles including member of the Young Arab Leaders - a pan-Arab non-profit organization, and a spin off from the World Economic Forum. I have also held membership positions with the Oman Women's Association and International Women in Aviation. I was also a Board Member for the Omani Businesswomen Forum and am an avid public speaker on women in leadership and CSR in the Middle Eastern region, as well as youth development.

A few years ago, I had the privilege to meet a few pupils from Woodbridge School, when they attended a two weeks' exchange programme with The Sultan's School in Oman, which I incidentally attended in primary school. I have only the fondest memories of Woodbridge School, and look forward to visiting again one day with my children."

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- CSR leadership award (October 2015) presented by World Congress Leadership
- "Woman of the Year" Al Mar'a Excellence Award (evaluated by Ernst & Young)
- October 2013, 2014 & 2015; listed in the Oman Economic Review's "Ten most powerful women in corporate Oman."

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