



A message from our Chairman, Richard Morse

"As 2016 draws to a close we can reflect on a year of considerable political upheaval as the backdrop to the excellent work being done in all the Woodard schools, with many signs of encouraging progress across the board.

I have visited twelve of our schools during my first four months in office and I am looking forward to visiting others in the New Year. I am most grateful for the welcome I have been given and I have been impressed by the skill, energy and commitment on display in all those schools.

Advent is a time to look forward. At the meeting of the Custodes in November, we spent much time thinking about plans for the future and how to make the best use of the Woodard grouping. Many of the challenges and opportunities that we discussed are reflected in the Government's green paper to which we have responded as a group after consultation with the Custodes of each school.

We have agreed that the procurement activity, which has already yielded good results, should continue to be rolled out and strengthened; that we should have a common aim of academic excellence and a support structure to reflect that; that we should continue to expand our international presence; and that we should continue to develop our leadership role in chaplaincy training. We have also decided to devote the next meeting of the Custodes Advisory Council (in May 2017) to issues of funding and affordability.

Two of the more visible outward signs of the Woodard family working well together are the Hub school projects and the A 1000 Woodard Voices event, both of which are featured in this edition of Woodard Voice. May I take this opportunity to thank all of you for your contribution in 2016, and also to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and a success-filled 2017."

News from the Hub Schools



Wren Academy makes online teaching resource freely available

We are delighted to announce the launch of an exciting new teaching resources website for the exclusive use of Woodard schools. The site, located within the discrete Woodard hub section of Wren Academy's website contains a wealth of resources for busy teachers and school leaders. There are easily accessible materials on planning effectively, making lessons more engaging, developing the best learning habits and much more. All Woodard teachers are free to make use of the site as often as they want.

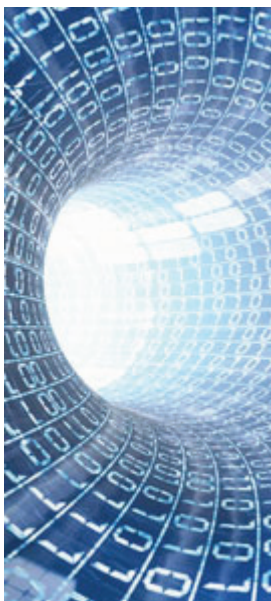
The resources website can be found by [clicking here](#)



St Olave's offers high praise for new academic journal first edition

A copy of the first edition of the cross-curricular Woodard Academic Journal will be en route to all Woodard schools this month - an intellectual smorgasbord to complement the traditional seasonal fare. Nineteen independently-researched dissertation-style reports written by senior students from four different Woodard schools make for a richly eclectic expression of erudition, covering topics as diverse as the illicit international trade in pangolin scales, the relationship between Sanskrit and Latin, and a critical appraisal of the international response to the Rwandan genocide of 1994. As thought-provoking as it is compelling to read, this journal is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the academic aspiration and accomplishment of some of the finest young scholars in the Woodard family. If you would like your school to be involved in the next edition, to see a copy of the journal online or to benefit from the hub-school initiative "SCHOLA" (in support of aspiring Oxbridge and Medical students).

Please visit the SCHOLA portal by [clicking here](#)



Lancing College Centre for Educational Research

Lancing College are firm believers in 'deep learning' and that instilling the skills and value of independent thought across the curriculum are key to a richer and more fulfilling education than 'teaching to the test'. Lancing College believe that, in line with boosting bottom-line academic achievement this approach adds value to all students' success.

January 18th-19th 2017 – Central London – Meta-Cognition Draft Specification Launch

By application, one to two members from partner schools to attend the presentation and refinement of the Woodard Meta-Cognition Programme. This is a free London residential course, to launch the outline specification and our plan to partner with Woodard Schools in the preparation of the MOOC that goes with it and to share the evolving curriculum model it is a part of.

Independent Learning Prizes

The following two prizes will be available for competition in the coming academic year:

- Lower Sixth Form Prize (Y.12 entry)
- GCSE Prize (Y 10 & 11 entry)

Open to all Woodard Schools - entry by 1st March - details on the website.

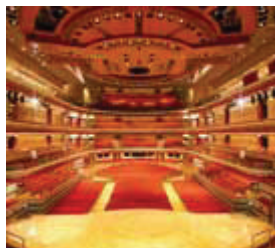
Consultancy and in-house student and staff training sessions -

Available free of charge in your institution on tooling the curriculum for independent learning; developing IT and infrastructure for the independent learning curriculum; developing libraries and learning resource centres for independent learning. Experts from the centre available by prior arrangement to visit partner schools.

Preparing for University Study Day & Preparing for Sixth Form Study Days -

Available from centre staff, available to Y 12 and Y 10 classes or groups by arrangement in the partner school. Centre staff will travel to the school by invitation, free of charge for a day or half day session to deliver days on developing the necessary study skills for transition to new stages of increasingly independent learning, partnering with local HE institutions.

Read more by [clicking here](#)



A 1000 Woodard Voices at Birmingham Symphony Hall

On Saturday 11th February 2017 several hundred Woodard pupils, primarily from Years 6, 7 and 8, will come together for a choral Master Class at Birmingham Symphony Hall, culminating in a 90 minute concert performance at 5pm.

The Master Class will be led by internationally renowned choral conductor, **Dominic Peckham**, regarded as 'one of the UK's finest dynamic orchestral and choral conductors of his generation'.

The event is free for participants and the audience, and the Woodard Board hopes that members of the wider Woodard family will want to attend.

Free tickets are available from the Woodard Schools head office. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. This really will be an opportunity to see and hear 'The Wonder of Woodard' in operation!

Email Jill Shorthose and request a ticket order form

jillshorthose@woodard.co.uk



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A Christmas Meditation

He was a little infant,
that you may be a perfect man

He was wrapped in swaddling clothes,
that you may be freed from the bond of death

He was in a manger,
that you may be at the altar:

He was on earth,
that you may be in heaven;

He had no other place in that inn,
that you, may have more abundant mansions in the heavenly kingdom

S Ambrose

Contact Us

For more information, or if you have any queries, please contact Canon Brendan Clover via the Woodard schools head office address below:

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