

Woodard voice

Issue 4 July 2015



Woodard Voice is aimed at spreading news about activity and developments across our family of schools. Issue 4 takes a closer look at the implementation of Priority 1 of the Woodard Strategy – the development of Training Hub Schools. This issue of Woodard Voice provides a description of each Training Hub and a Calendar of programmes for the new academic year, 2015-2016.

Woodard's Programme of Professional Support for Staff and Students

Woodard exists to support its schools through facilitating the sharing of the great practice that exists in many of our schools. Today over fifty schools belong to our family, many of them judged to be outstanding by Ofsted/ISI and all with examples of good practice.

Woodard is developing capacity and capabilities to deliver a world class educational experience by establishing a number of Woodard Training Hubs Schools which will facilitate collaboration between students and staff within the family. Each training hub is based at one of our outstanding schools, who have been given financial support by Woodard to spread their expertise to other schools in the family, at no financial cost to our schools except for travel expenses.

Each Hub School will share expertise through:

- Conferences – for staff and students
- Courses – both face to face and on-line
- On-line resource portals

Altogether Woodard plans to support eight Training Hubs. Each Training Hub has been given a three year contract. Three of these will be up and running by September 2015.

I warmly encourage you to engage with the Training Hubs to support your needs.

All good wishes,

Chris Wright
Director of Education
Woodard Schools



Woodard's Teaching and Learning Professional Development Programme led by Wren Academy



Engagement, enjoyment and rapid progress

- Development Programmes:
 - Senior Leaders* – Strategic leadership of teaching and learning
 - Middle Leaders* – Leading effective teaching and learning
 - Teachers* –
 - How to become a consistently outstanding teacher
 - How to become a consistently good teacher
- Bespoke consultancy services to develop any aspect of teaching and learning in your school
- Workshops and conferences
- Resources, articles and ideas shared in a teaching and learning portal

Wren Academy is an outstanding school with an exceptional national reputation for the quality of its teaching and learning provision.

Wren has focussed upon developing young people's learning capacity to create an environment where students are independent, reflective and enthusiastic. Our most recent Ofsted inspection described teaching at Wren as 'stunning' and the behaviour of students as 'impeccable'.

Wren's approach to teaching and learning has had a direct and significant impact upon academic progress at the school. Indeed, we believe a student-centred approach to learning and rapid academic progress to be indivisible. Wren is in the top 100 state schools in the country for both academic attainment and value added. We also achieve outstanding progress with all groups of students.

At Wren, we have considerable experience of sharing our experience with colleagues in other schools. This collaboration is always bespoke as we realise that all schools have their own particular needs and aspirations. We want to work with our Woodard partners to develop teaching and learning provision and enhance progress across the Woodard family.'



Woodard's Schola Programme led by St Olave's Grammar School



Aspiration and success

The Schola Programme will provide the following:

- Oxbridge and Medics' Support Programmes
- Resources, workshops and conferences for pupils and staff
- A network with other Woodard schools to share best practice
- Enhanced extension, enrichment and peer-to-peer support
- Highly specialised expertise in STEP and MAT

St Olave's Grammar School has built an enviable national reputation for scholarship and Oxbridge / Medical successes, underpinned by a strong focus on high-level Mathematics. We wish to share this expertise with our Woodard family of schools through the Schola initiative.

Through sharing well-honed practices and a wealth of specialised resources, we can collaborate with your school to support the development of aspirational key performance indicators for Higher Education.

Woodard Centre for Independent Learning led by Lancing College



Inspiration, Illumination, Independence

The centre will provide the following, central to the college's vision:

- A professional network:
Faculty Leaders – faculty leaders will develop specific curriculums for Creative Arts, Humanities, STEM, Languages and Social Sciences with subject leaders in each of these areas across the Woodard Schools.
Support staff – conferences for librarians and Directors of ICT on supporting independent learning.
- Development of a multi-stage independent learning curriculum, for accreditation by a national examination board.
- Development of teaching resources and a MOOC for the delivery of the Woodard Certificate of Independent Learning.
- Opportunities for funded postgraduate research in independent learning and working in partnership with HE on action research in this area.
- Resources, articles and ideas shared in a teaching and learning portal including discussion forums and webinars.

Lancing College is the senior school of the Woodard Corporation and has long held a reputation for educational excellence and innovation. We organise all facets of the college around our central tenets of **inspiration, illumination and independence**:

Inspired by Christian principles our vision is ethically grounded, tolerant and ambitious for all. We challenge and support each individual in the community.

We seek to go beyond mere instruction, **illuminating** our pupils' lives so that excellent teaching, learning and pastoral care are embedded in all we do.

This is a community that values **independence** of mind and spirit. We exercise stewardship and care of all our resources, developing a sense of responsibility, resilience and adventure as Lancing pupils move beyond our beautiful surroundings to lead their own lives.

The Woodard Centre for Independent Learning seeks to bring Lancing's central values to the construction of a network of professionals across Woodard schools, exploring in partnership how we can develop free and rigorous thought and learning from our students.

Lancing College is one of the leading schools in the country in terms of one-to-one mobile device adoption and are proud of our high-speed fully wireless campus and the skill with which our staff and pupils use their iPads to add impact and independence to their learning. We are firm believers in 'deep learning' and that inculcating the skills and value of independent thought across the curriculum are key to a richer and more fulfilling education than 'teaching to the test'. We believe that, in line with boosting bottom-line academic achievement this approach adds value to all of our students' success and we share with our fellow training hub leaders in maintaining a student centred approach to learning.

We are keen to work with partner schools in developing a rigorous curriculum for the delivery of the skills of meta-cognition and exploring how to engrain independence of thought both as a discrete skill and one embedded across schools' curriculums and culture. We are not embarking on this project with a pre-conceived notion of how to achieve these aims but wish to develop a community of good practice, learning from the experience of our partners.



Calendar 2015-2016

Note: venues have not yet been decided but will be accessible to as many delegates as possible



Woodard Teaching & Learning Professional Development Programme

Strategic Leadership of Teaching and Learning

Led by Wren Academy

How to ensure that teaching across your school has the maximum impact upon student progress. This course will cover accurate and effective self-evaluation; whole school intervention strategies to raise achievement and how to lead change.

Face to face course: 16th March 2016 and 16th June 2016.

Online participation: Up to one hour per week between course dates via the Teaching and Learning Portal.

Suitable for: All senior leaders with an interest in improving students' learning experiences and raising achievement in your school.

Leading Effective Teaching and Learning

Led by Wren Academy

How to ensure that teaching within your department or faculty area has the maximum impact upon student progress. This course will cover evaluation and intervention strategies; the focussed use of data to measure progress and how to effectively influence teams and individual members of staff.

Face to face course: 15th March 2016 and 14th June 2016.

Online participation: up to one hour per week between course dates via the Teaching and Learning Portal.

Suitable for: All heads of department/faculty with an interest in improving students' learning experiences and raising achievement in your curriculum area(s).

How to become a consistently outstanding teacher

Led by Wren Academy

A course aimed at teachers with the potential and desire to become consistently outstanding practitioners. The course contains high level practical guidance, professional dialogue between participants and plentiful examples of effective classroom strategies.

Face to face course: 17th November 2015, 16th March 2016 & 14th June 2016.

Online participation: about 30 minutes per week between the first and last course dates via the Teaching and Learning Portal.

Suitable for: Teachers whose lessons are usually very good and who wish to become consistently outstanding in their practice.

How to become a consistently good teacher

Led by Wren Academy

A course aimed at teachers who wish to become consistently good practitioners. The course contains practical guidance, professional dialogue and a thorough grounding in practice which makes for reliably good teaching.

Face to face course: 18th November 2015, 15th March 2016 & 16th June 2016.

Online participation: about 30 minutes per week between the first and last course dates via the Teaching and Learning Portal.

Suitable for: Teachers who will benefit from intensive and high quality support to help them deliver lessons which are consistently good.



Woodard Oxbridge Programme



Aspiring to Oxbridge

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

An introduction to the Oxbridge preparation process at St Olave's, outlining the annual calendar of provision at whole school level and sharing key resources and strategies which see us regularly achieve 30+ Oxbridge offers per year. Keynote presentation to be followed by discussion and sharing of best practice.

Face to face course: 10th November 2015.

Suitable for: Teacher Advisers, especially Heads of Sixth Form.

Exploring Oxbridge – Information Evening

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

Admissions Tutors and Admissions Officers from Oxford and Cambridge present a detailed exploration of the application process from the universities' perspectives. Keynote presentation followed by question and answer session.

Face to face course: 14th March 2016.

Suitable for: Year 12 students (and parents) + Teacher Advisers.

Thinking about Oxbridge

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

An on-line course for Year 12 students thinking about applying for Oxbridge, covering key issues such as critically engaged wider reading, crafting a strong personal statement, preparing for admissions tests, preparing for interview and a host of other relevant areas.

On-line participation: Live online from January 2016. Six week programme of at least three hours per week.

Suitable for: Year 12 students.

Oxbridge Residential Conference

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

A suite of events and activities tailored to support aspiring Oxbridge applicants – and those who are supporting their applications. Topics covered for students will develop and complement the online workshop material and for teachers will include crafting references, raising aspiration, engaging wider support and preparing students for admissions tests/interviews.

Face to face conference: Summer Term 2016 (dates tbc).

Suitable for: Year 12 students + Teacher Advisers.

Oxbridge Lecture Series

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

A host of distinguished speakers presenting on a wide variety of subject areas will help your candidates develop cutting edge knowledge in a range of subject-specific areas. Lectures will be available for delegates to attend in person or to engage with online via the Schola portal.

Face to face conference: Summer Term 2016.

Suitable for: Teacher Advisers and Year 12 students.



Woodard Medics Programme



Aspiring to Medical School

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

An introduction to the Medics' preparation process at St Olave's, outlining the annual calendar of provision at whole school level and sharing key resources and strategies which see us regularly achieve 20+ medical offers per year. Keynote presentation to be followed by discussion and sharing of best practice.

Face to face course: 24th November 2015.

Suitable for: Teacher Advisers, especially Heads of Sixth Form and those with specific responsibility for supporting medical applicants.

Exploring Medical School – Open Evening

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

Tutors and Admissions Officers from Russell Group medical schools present a detailed exploration of the application process from the universities' perspectives. Keynote presentations followed by question and answer session.

Face to face event: 16th March 2016.

Suitable for: Year 11 and 12 students (and parents) + Teacher Advisers.

Thinking about Medical School

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

An on-line course for Year 12 students thinking about applying for medicine, covering key issues such as gaining relevant experience, crafting a strong personal statement, preparing for BMAT and UKCAT, preparing for interview (one-to-one and MMI) and a host of other relevant areas.

Online participation: Live online from January 2016. Six week programme of at least three hours per week.

Suitable for: Year 12 students.

Medical School Residential Conference

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

A suite of events and activities tailored to support aspiring medical applicants – and those who are supporting their applications. Topics covered for students will develop and complement the online workshop material and for teachers will include crafting references, raising aspiration, engaging wider support and preparing students for admissions tests/interviews.

Face to face conference: Summer Term 2016 (dates tbc).

Suitable for: Year 12 students + Teacher Advisers.

Medical School Workshops

Led by St Olave's Grammar School

Distinguished speakers from the medical profession discuss key issues facing the current generation of medics. Lectures will be available for delegates to attend in person or to engage with online via the Schola portal.

Face to face conference: Summer Term 2016.

Suitable for: Teacher Advisers and Year 12 students.



Woodard Centre for Independent Learning led by Lancing College



Winter Term: 2015

Launch of Centre Website and First Woodard Centre Conference on Independent Learning Paradigms

Led by Lancing College

The conference and website will establish a professional network and state current scholarship relating to the taxonomy of skills needed to conduct independent learning. The network will discuss the current paradigms for independent learning and its efficacy in the curriculum and how these might be embedded in a range of subject groupings.

Face to face course: Tuesday 17th November, Lancing College.

On line participation: Website to go live with discussion forums and members' areas for registered partner schools and delegates.

Suitable for: All senior leaders with an interest in improving students as well as Directors of IT and Librarians.

Student Conference – Preparing for study at university

Led by Lancing College

The conference allows up to ten Year 12 students from each partner school to attend a day's conference about how to develop the skills necessary for study at university level. In combination with partners from the world of Higher Education, attendees will look at how to exemplify the skills of independent thought and research so vital to university study in personal statements and how to develop tangible pieces of work that show university level skill. The course is particularly suited to those wishing to prepare entries for Sixth Form essay prizes, EPQ projects or the IB Diploma Programme's Extended Essay Programme.

Face to face course: Thursday 24th November, University of Birmingham Conference Centre.

On line participation: Online videos and podcasts of the various sessions along with teaching materials to be placed on the centre website.

Suitable for: Students in Year 12 wishing to apply to university in Year 13.

Spring Term 2016

Librarians' Conference

Led by Lancing College

The conference allows the development of a complementary network of library professionals who will explore the issues related to provision and delivery of information resources to schools, exploring interaction of web, e-book, e-library, journal and VLE resources alongside traditional book resources. Led by Mrs Serena Marchant, Lancing College's chartered librarian and her team, including visiting speakers from HE.

Face to face course: March 2016, Lancing College.

On line participation: Online videos and podcasts of the various sessions along with teaching materials to be placed on the centre website.

Suitable for: Academic leaders, School Librarians and Assistant Librarians.

Directors of IT Conference – Tooling electronic learning environments for the modern, mobile student.

Led by Lancing College

The conference allows Directors of IT at partner schools to explore issues to do with the technical infrastructure needed to embed independent learning in schools. Learning from Lancing College's experience as one of the first one-to-one iPad schools, the conference will examine the use of VLEs and parent portals, the network and resource implications of using mobile technology and the pros and cons of 'Bring Your Own Device' or 'one-to-one' provision models for the provision of independent learning.

Face to face course: March 2016 – London.

On line participation: Online videos and podcasts of the various sessions along with teaching materials to be placed on the centre website.

Suitable for: Bursars, Directors of IT, Academic Leaders.



Spring and Summer Terms

Subject Leaders' Symposiums

Led by Lancing College and subject leader co-ordinators from partner schools

This series of symposiums will lead on from the first conference at Lancing where our network will identify subject leaders who will be developing subject area specific independent learning curriculums and discussing the key skills for independent learning in their areas and the means of embedding independent learning into their schemes of work.

Face to face course: February – May 2016 – various venues nationwide

On line participation: Online videos and podcasts of the various symposiums along with teaching materials to be placed on the centre website. A developing bank of resources will also be delivered from the members' area of the centre website

Suitable for: subject leaders and faculty heads and/or subject teachers

Woodard Centre for Independent Learning – postgraduate scholarship

In addition to the activities offered above, there will be an open application from participating teachers at partner schools to apply for a fully funded MA/ MEd/MPhil or equivalent part-time course working with the Centre and a UK university on some facet of independent learning within the 11-18 curriculum, whether generically or within a particular subject area.

Face to face courses: Applicants will be interviewed if short-listed at the centre or via Skype.

On line participation: Support materials and application procedures for the course will be found from January 2016 with applications closing by 1st May 2016 for commencement in the 2016-2017 academic year.

Suitable for: Teachers, leaders and support staff in partner schools



News

Woodard Langalanga Secondary School, Kenya

On 26 February the final building of the Woodard Langalanga Secondary School in Kenya was opened. It is a multi-purpose hall suitable as a dining room, theatre, chapel, and sports facility. It can accommodate the whole school and parents for special events. Unfortunately Woodard Chairman, Tom Fremantle, who was to be the Guest of Honour, was unable to travel at the last minute so the Corporation was not directly represented. Colonel Harry Vialou Clark, Fellow Emeritus and Founder of the school and his Project Manager (now the local MP) jointly fulfilled that role. Three members of staff from the educational supplies firm TTS Group Ltd also attended so that they could hand over a range of gifts of stationery which had been put together by their customer schools. The event brought home to the visitors the enormous impact our Woodard School is having upon the impoverished local community.



There remains an urgent need now to continue fundraising to help with the Woodard School's running expenses and to ensure the many teachers paid for by the parents receive their monthly salaries. £150 will educate one student for a year; £130 will fully fund one teacher for a month. Donations are always welcomed by Colonel Vialou Clark (vialouclark@btinternet.com) and his charity the Kariandusi School Trust (www.kariandusi.co.uk). Please do all you can to support the operation of this remarkable Woodard School.



The Third National School Chaplaincy Conference

This Conference is now firmly established and continues to grow. Between 18th and 20th June well over 150 delegates from both sectors, lay and ordained, attended Liverpool Hope University for this unique Conference offering. As before, this Conference was jointly hosted by Woodard with SCALA (the School Chaplains and Leaders Association), and the National Society of the Church of England. This year we were delighted to be joined by TISCA (The Independent Schools Christian Alliance) and the Jesuit Schools. This is practical ecumenism focused around the Christian education of our young, and the building of the kingdom of God.

Keynote speakers included Father Timothy Radcliffe OP, Professor Linda Woodhead, the broadcaster Mr Roger Bolton, and the CEO of Christian Aid, Ms Loretta Minghella OBE. The Conference also received an overview of the state of Christian education from Revd Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer of the Church of England, and Mr Paul Barber, Director of the Catholic Education Services. The theatre

company Ten Ten treated us to three powerful short plays in a session after dinner. The Rt Revd John Arnold, Catholic Bishop of Salford, presided and preached at the Opening Liturgy and the Anglican Bishop of Leeds (West Yorkshire and the Dales) presided at the Conference Eucharist. Pupils from St Edward's College, Liverpool, participated in these liturgies.

The Conference also saw a number of firsts: the launch of Revd Dr John Caperon's book 'A Vital Ministry' Chaplaincy in Schools in the Post-Christian era; the launch of 'Values, Christian Values and Schools' by Revd Gordon Parry Director of SCALA; the launch of Chaplaincy Central www.chaplaincycentral.co.uk, a web based resource for chaplains in school ministry; and the sponsorship of the Prayer Book Society, The Tablet, Gresham Books, Wind Sand and Stars, the Church of England Newspaper and The Church Times.

There is no doubt that we have raised, and are raising the profile of Christian ministry in schools, to the extent that this Conference is now a force to be reckoned with.

St Saviour's, Guests of the Archbishop of Canterbury

On 10th June 12 students from SSSO and three staff had the immense privilege to visit to Lambeth Palace to meet the Archbishop of Canterbury and his special guest, the Grand Imam of Egypt. From Archbishop Justin's visit to our school in March we learned that reconciliation is a hugely important part of his ministry, therefore making links with leaders of other faiths is a priority to him. It was a very special opportunity to be invited to be part of a meeting with two such prominent faith leaders.

We met with the Archbishop and the Grand Imam in the state drawing room of Lambeth Palace. As a mixed group of Muslims and Christians, the Grand Imam was very interested to know about each of us and asked us to introduce ourselves individually. He was keen to know what our views were about Muslim-Christian relations, and was encouraged to see that our school is a place where people of different faiths can live together like a family. The Anglican Bishop of Egypt, who was also present, told us that he found relations between Christians and Muslims in Egypt to be largely peaceful and successful, in spite of how things may be portrayed in the media. It was clear that we were in the presence of faith leaders who see tolerance and peaceful relations between faiths as a priority.



It was wonderful to see this positive, uplifting side of faith relations. Being part of this meeting is something that we will never forget.

"It was an incredible opportunity to meet such important leaders of faith groups, and one which we greatly enjoyed. I feel that we have returned feeling all the more inspired to increase the tolerance and acceptance within our community here at St Saviour's." - Bea Pearson 12N

"It was a wonderful experience having such influential religious leaders interested in the voices of youth, and our opinions and experiences with vast diversity in our local and school community." - Suzie Digby 12J





**Woodard Voice will be published regularly.
For more information, or if you have any queries,
please contact Canon Brendan Clover via the
Woodard Schools head office address below:**

Woodard Schools Head Office

High Street
Abbots Bromley
Rugeley
Staffordshire WS15 3BW

Tel: 01283 840120
Fax: 01283 840893

Office Manager: Mrs J M Shorthose
email: jillshorthose@woodard.co.uk

Registered Company Number 4659710
Registered Charity Number 1096270

www.woodard.co.uk

Woodard Academies Trust Head Office

1 Adam Street
London
WC2N 6LE

Tel: 020 3397 5100

Office Manager: Mr S Webb
email: stuart.webb@woodard.co.uk

Registered Company Number 6415729

www.woodardacademies.co.uk