

Years 7 and 8 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • 2019



IN THIS ISSUE

- 125th Birthday
- Open Day
- First Chapel
- Term 1 Iona Social
- Art
- Drama
- Woodford House Boarding
- Homework Club
- Reading Group
- House Music
- Showquest
- Year 7/8 Choir Auditions
- First Game of Hockey
- Swimming Sports
- Diving Champs
- Futsal Games
- Orienteering Sprint Champs
- EPro8 Challenge
- Nga Tawa Equestrian Event 2019

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

We have hit the ground running this term with many exciting events. Winter sport has started, cross country is upon us and our special homeroom Chapels are underway. The Year 8 girls have been excellent buddies to our new students, taking them under their wing in day school and boarding. We are also extremely proud of how well our new girls have settled in and embraced the special character of the Woodford House family.

To date, 2019 has been packed full of activities including Swimming Sports, Athletics Day, our annual Year 7/8 EOTC Day, the Iona Social, House Music, staff versus student sporting events and the greatly anticipated 125th school birthday celebration. It has been wonderful to see the girls taking part in these events and making the most of every opportunity they are presented with.

This student driven newsletter outlines many of the highlights and activities the girls have been involved in. All Year 7/8 students are encouraged to submit texts for publishing and share with you their experiences and achievements. I hope you enjoy reading.

Sophie Davies
Intermediate Teacher



WOODFORD
HOUSE

125th Birthday

2019 is not a normal year for 'The School on the Top of the Hill' - Woodford House. Our school, founded by an inspirational woman named Mabel Annie Hodge, has been open for exactly 125 years this year and a big birthday celebration had been planned.

Panama hats sat proudly on the top of every girl's head. We walked through the tunnel of towering ancient gum trees out of the school gates and towards the village.

We arrived at St Luke's for the birthday speeches. The highlight was the cutting and eating of the beautiful chocolate birthday cake. Yum!

Happy birthday Woodford House!

Evie Skidmore



Open Day

Everyone was ready for a busy Open Day at school this year. The Year 8, 12 and 13 students were the tour guides for the visitors. Students from Year 7 and Year 9-11 were working hard in their classrooms where they created fun games and a lot of very interesting things to show to the visitors who were invited to join them. The visitors had a lot of fun.

This was a really special day for me. It helped me to learn how to be calm when you are nervous. It helped me to improve my English, because I had to tell the visitors the things I know about Woodford House in English. I had to think in English too. It helped me to learn how to work with my partner and to work out a plan to show the visitors around the school together. The most important thing I learned from Open Day was how to take on a responsibility.

Annie Wang



First Chapel of the Year

The first day of school had a great start. It was Chapel time. I walked in and sat down, squished between my friends in the back of the Chapel on one of the hottest days of the school year. We were watching all the excited new Year 7 and 8 students filtering down the Chapel aisle with enthusiastic looks on their faces, anxiously wondering how Chapel was going to run.



Everyone was seated; the last few teachers were swiftly walking into the Chapel to take their seats. Most new girls' eyes fell upon the rose window, the massive stained glass feature at the front of the Chapel, decorated with people and objects from bible stories.

After a few minutes of sitting in silence, the choir began to sing. The candles and cross came down the aisle and the school stood silently. All eyes darting, watching the Chaplain walk slowly down the passageway. The Chaplain walked to the front, standing underneath the huge rose window. The choir finished singing their melodious song and quietly sat back down. We had introductions from the Chaplain and she explained about the structure of the building.

She told us about the history of the rose window and the Chapel, she did bible readings and we said our prayers. We stood to sing a hymn. I glanced at the new girls at the front who obviously had no idea what was going on. I remembered when I was sitting in their place.

In our prayers, we knelt and took time to reflect. Then we stood and sung a tuneful hymn, our voices filling the Chapel. The Chapel service was about to conclude. The Chapel Prefect said the last call of worship and the choir stood and started to sing. The cross and candles slowly made their way back down the aisle. The new girls were twisting their heads around so they could see the choir. The choir finished their harmonic song; the organ played the last note. Gradually and without talking, the new girls exited in an orderly fashion, their eyes filled with excitement. As it was my turn to leave the building, I smiled.

The first Chapel was exciting and had many opportunities to reflect and move forward. There were lots of positive messages. It made me learn more about the Chapel structure and the rose window. I can't wait to know what we will be doing for the rest of the year.

Charlotte Wakefield



Term 1 Iona Social

The music roared. The Iona gym was packed full of Year 7 and 8 students from Woodford House, Iona, Hereworth and Lindisfarne. The Term 1 social was a time for the boys and girls to have an exciting night of socialising together.

The lights flashed like lightning, while we all jumped up and down in time to the music. We danced, and danced, and danced until we were so tired that we could barely stand up.

Surprisingly, before we knew it, the two hours were up and the gym lights flickered back to normal. The night had finished and it was time to go back home.

Sluggishly, after a great night out, I got into the car ready to go home and get straight into bed.

Ella Good



Art

Since coming to Woodford House as a new Year 7, art has become one of my favourite subjects. We have been focusing on a fish theme. At first we completed a fishy collage, which we did using pastels and dye. Now we are working on textures, making a collagraph which we will print. I love it. It's so much fun and the teacher makes it even better. She lets us talk about our work and this makes learning fun! I can't wait for my next art lesson!

Zara McGillicuddy

Drama

The lights dimmed, shimmering only on parts of the dirty black stage and drilling holes of excitement through the student's bodies. We scattered our props around the stage and giggled nervously as we skipped into positions.

During Term 1 drama, we were asked to put together a performance in a small group based on a well-known fairy tale. I played Mr Wolf from the well-known script, Little Red Riding Hood. I found it quite hard to fit into the role because Mr Wolf is quite a creepy, evil character and I don't believe that I am anything of the sort!

I prowled across the stage and managed to pull off a deep monotone voice. I swished my tail around here and there. In no time, our whole group had successfully performed in front of our class. We were given applause as a gift in return for our efforts.

I have really enjoyed drama this term and I'm super happy with how organised my group was. I can't wait for drama next term!

Charlotte Wray

Woodford House Boarding

My experience of Woodford House boarding has been wild and pretty full-on. Starting at Woodford House in Year 8, I didn't really expect how quickly I would become so comfortable with my learning, sports and, of course boarding.

I must admit the one thing that did get me down at first was homesickness. Luckily, however, with the comfort of my new friends, and of course Ms Watkins, it was gone in a click of a finger.

The best thing about boarding would have to be the friends you make, and the memories you make with them. I didn't expect to make friends so quickly, but it was easy as the people here are really welcoming and easy to talk to.

Even though it has only been a term and a few weeks, I have made so many memories and had lots of good laughs! I would definitely recommend boarding to anyone and everyone - you won't regret it!

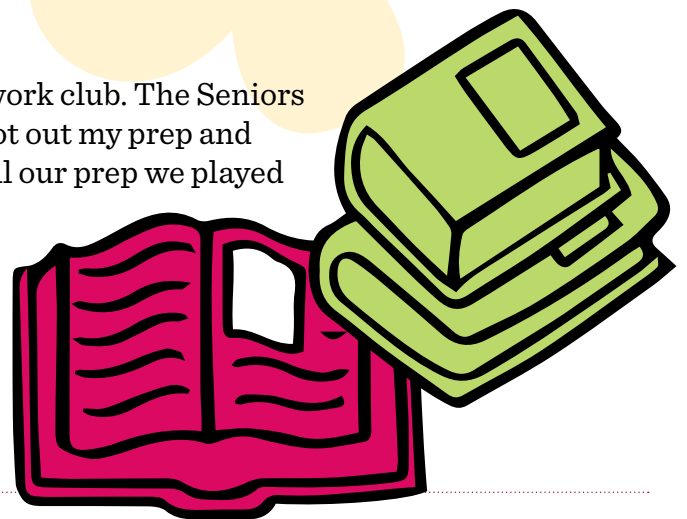
Amy Greville



Homework Club

On Tuesday I walked into Ms Dustin's class for homework club. The Seniors were there and they brought cookies for us to have. I got out my prep and they sat down with me and helped. After we finished all our prep we played a fun Kahoot quiz together which was about sea animals. I would recommend homework club to others as it is good for people who have trouble with prep or just want a good, quiet and helpful place to get their work done.

Sophie Price



Reading Group

This Term at Woodford House I have been given the amazing opportunity of being part of the extension reading group with Mrs Russell. In this group, girls who are particularly passionate about reading or writing get the opportunity to extend their knowledge. Mrs Russell is one of our Deputy Principals, and she has been kind enough to take on the responsibility of teaching the Year 7 and 8 extension reading class. So far this year we have looked at poems, particularly poems written during the new English period. We have also focused on the writing of our own poems. We have learnt how to write couplets and sonnets. I love reading so I feel very fortunate to get this amazing opportunity. I would also like to thank Mrs Russell for giving up her valuable time to share her knowledge with us.

Gabriella Jones

House Music

"I don't want to ever let you down," Wallingford sang enthusiastically. As they sang, they smiled and you could see their pearly white teeth. Frimley was lined up waiting for our turn on stage and I started to get a panic attack because we were about to perform in front of the whole school! I was nervous and agitated.



Clap, clap, clap! The noise from the amazing audience was deafening. Then Tracy announced, "Please welcome to the stage fantastic Frimley!" We hiked up the stairs and shuffled into our places. The most embarrassing moment was about to begin.

"I've got chills... they're multiplying," the song started and I froze as still as a statue. That moment (and of course, it had to be that moment) I had a mind blank! I had forgotten the words and the actions. I was in the spotlight, so the only thing I could do was look out from the corner of my eye and try to copy the person slouching next to me, but then the real drama happened.

Suddenly the words came back to me and I started to sing as loudly as I could. Then I realised that I was singing the wrong song! I felt so embarrassed that my whole body turned bright pink. As we shuffled off stage I felt a sigh of relief and I said to myself, "At least that was only the dress rehearsal!"

Hannah Hudson

House Music Solo Try Out

I didn't know what to think about it, but I was going to try out for a solo for House Music! I didn't know if I was absolutely sure about it, but I was going to give it my all.

I walked down the Dame stairs shivering with a tight pain in my guts and made it to the dark mirrored drama room. Waiting there was the House Prefect and her friends, who all sat on the comfortable, leather circular chairs.

Rosa Pike and I had practised together and decided to take up this singing challenge. Rosa auditioned first and I was nervous for her. She sang beautifully. Next, it was my turn! My guts sucked in and my legs were trembling. I stood in front of the House Prefect and made a start. I couldn't stand still; my fingers shook like I was in a horror movie and my voice was chattering, clattering like it was below zero degrees. It was like standing in the middle of a frozen lake.

After I was done, I was pleased with how I did. My face went from a dull pink back to normal. Everyone did great and I couldn't wait to find out if I had a solo singing part in House Music!

Maddy Lowry



Showquest

When I first started Showquest I didn't know anyone, but the girls were so caring. They welcomed me and it soon started to feel like it was home.

I made new friends and went beyond my own limits when I was dancing. I am so thankful to the people who run Showquest, because without them it wouldn't have been possible.

When I am dancing I feel like nothing can stop me.
I recommend giving it a go!

Ella Brenton-Rule

Year 7/8 Choir Auditions

Most of the Year 7 and 8 Choir gathered in the music room in the Dame on Thursday 4 April to meet Ella and Olivia. As we all walked in, Ella and Olivia told us that auditions for the Million Dreams song were today and they would run us through it.

First was the alto audition, which was for people whose voices were in the lower range. Eryn, Scarlett, Millie, Lydia, Makayla and I all walked up to the piano, one by one. Even though I am a soprano one, I still tried.

Next up was the group audition. Olivia chose who went with who and which voices matched with each other. Olivia chose Scarlett and me to sing together. Scarlett and I walked up to the piano and got ready. We sang and everyone was cheering quietly. Then we sat in our seats.

Afterwards, it was the soprano ones' audition. Almost everyone in the Year 7 and 8 Choir started to walk up to the piano, everybody was nervous. One by one we sang. Everyone sounded amazing! Finally, it was the audition for the end of the song. Everyone was excited. We all walked up and were very supportive, and again we sang one by one. The last audition wasn't for me. I couldn't hit the notes.

The auditions for the day were done. Everyone cheered for each other as we headed off to lunch. I felt really good because I got up there and sang my heart out. If I were to audition again I would be more organised and warmed up.

Rosie Pike

First Game of Hockey

Everyone was excited for the first game. After the final briefing from Ms Dustin, our captain and vice-captain led us to the dugout.

Taking our positions on the field, I glanced at our opposition - Taradale Intermediate, they seemed good. I walked out to the left wing ready to start running as soon as the whistle blew. During the game, we spent most of our time attacking and scored regularly. When we went onto defence we stayed strong. Emma, our goalie, did some incredible saves, kicking the ball straight back up the field where our forwards could collect it. By the end of the game we were all bright red and puffing. We won 4-1; it was a great start to the hockey season.

Charlotte Wakefield

Swimming Sports

My race was about to start and I took the starting position. My muscles were tense and my eyes were looking a million miles away. BANG! I dove off the wall and started pumping my legs and arms furiously like a fish caught on a line. As I streamlined through the water, my muscles ached and my jaw hurt from clenching it too tight. I saw the finish wall in the distance. With my heart racing, I reached out and slammed my hand against it.

That day was swimming sports. The competitive atmosphere was fantastic. Each House had their own unique cheer. Everyone wanted to be heard, whether it was banging drums or just cheering their heart out. I'm in Tauroa House (arguably the best).

We all yelled, screamed and cheered frantically. It sounded like a barrel of monkeys going crazy! The teacher vs. Year 13 race was about to begin and all I could see were the teachers furiously stretching their sun-baked arms. Next I saw the Year 13s giving pesky eyes to the teachers as they got into their starting positions. They were off with a bang and the Year 13s had a small lead! The teachers caught up and overlapped the students to take out the win. It was very exciting!

Next was prize giving and after a long build-up of victors and congratulations, it was time for the House Cup! Mr Nixon announced, in a presentation-like voice, all of the placings and points, "In fourth place, Rouncil! In third place, Frimley!" Frimley roared with excitement and joy! "In second place... Tauroa!" I let out a mighty scream and the rest of Tauroa followed. "So that means first place goes to Wallingford!"

Everybody clapped and cheered as swimming sports came to an end.

Greta Apatu



Twilight Swimming Sports

It was time for twilight swimming sports. I was in one final, which was the 100-metre backstroke. I didn't think that I would get into a final as swimming isn't my strong point. I love swimming sports though. It is such a fun event with the whole school involved. It's a good way to get to know more people and exciting to cheer on your house and chant. That's the way to earn the lollies!

I really enjoy House events, and swimming sports is one of my favourite events. I wasn't that nervous for my final and I did one of the fun events as well. In the novelty event, Rosa and I had to race together on a noodle. We were kicking and kicking as fast as we could. We were laughing and having heaps of fun.

Before we knew it, the day was over and Wallingford had won the cup! I can't wait for next year's event!

Tabatha Smith

Diving Champs

Amelia Dear, Esther Dear, Lydia Burns, Scarlett Nilsson, Greta Apatu, my big sister Issy Westwood and I were at the diving champs. We stood in our togs with our towels wrapped around us, waiting for our turn to dive. I watched Lydia do an amazing dive and clapped as she came back to the surface. Then I heard my name, “Sophie Westwood.”

Syrill, my diving coach, stood next to the board. “Commence,” he said to me. Thoughts flew through my head as I walked to the edge of the board - keep your feet together, head down, aim to the invisible hoop.

I looked down and could see all the way down to the bluish concrete, which made it look freezing, I was already shivering as I closed my eyes and slowly descended into the icy water hoping to do a perfect fall dive.

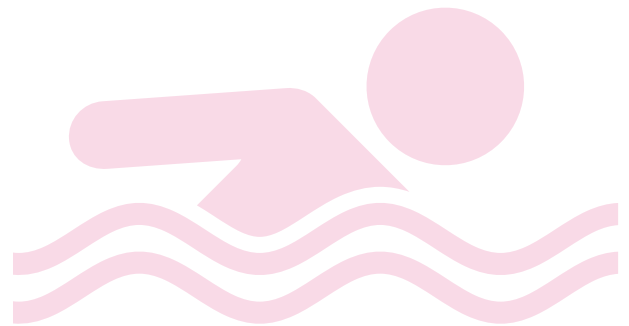
My dive took me halfway down into the deep water, the chill rushed through body. Then I quickly swam upwards through the water, back towards the glistening surface.

I broke the surface and swam to the edge. My big sister told me that my score was 5.5. I gladly climbed out of the freezing water. I thought to myself that’s a pretty good score.

I’m really glad I tried diving and I will definitely do it again. It’s fun to learn cool dives, and the diving champs are scary but exciting at the same time.

I can’t wait for the next diving championships!

Sophie Westwood



Intermediate Hawke’s Bay Swim Champs

Finally, the competition night rolled around. Late in Term 1, roughly at 6pm, a few girls that did well in the school swimming sports went to represent Woodford House at the Flaxmere Pool to compete in the Hawke’s Bay Championships.

The gun fired. I felt myself diving forward into the cold pool water for the breaststroke leg of the medley relay. I thought in my head, ‘five fly kicks, quick tumble turns, fast kicking and strong strokes.’ The whole time I was swimming as hard as I could. I heard girls yelling my name, which made me more determined. Successfully, I had finished my first heat. Our team did well.

I walked over to the Woodford House area where my friends congratulated me. I grabbed some popcorn, an apple and a sausage roll from the cooler. My next heat was a while away so Esther and I went outside to stretch. While we were there I saw some friends from my old school. It was strange to be competing against them, but fun to talk to them.

Suddenly I heard my name. Ms Perry was calling us in so we could go to our next heats - 50m freestyle, 50m Breaststroke, 100m Freestyle, and then the Freestyle 25m relay. All these events were really fun and mixed with friendly competition. The whole time I was swimming as hard as I could. I heard girls yelling my name and that made me more determined.

Overall, Woodford House did great. It was such a fun filled time. We could tell Ms Perry was proud of every single one of us. I’m pretty sure everyone left the Flaxmere Pool feeling ecstatic, including me. I can’t wait to see what Year 9 swimming holds.

Millie Allen

Futsal Games

I ran out onto the court and got into my position. I waited anxiously for the whistle to blow. My stomach had butterflies. I was feeling a bit nervous because I heard people saying that apparently most people on the other team were soccer reps!

As soon as I heard the whistle blow, I ran up to try to get the ball off the other team. The other team was really good. We tried to use different skills and strategies to outsmart them.

A few minutes into the game the opposition went for a huge kick, which went flying in the air. I tried to get the ball with my foot but instead it hit my thigh painfully.

At half time the other team was winning. Our team huddled up and discussed what we needed to do better. Eventually, we got back on the court and carried on playing. The other team started to get tired as they had no subs, so we used that to our advantage.

Soon after that, the game finally finished. The other team ended up winning but it was still a good game. One lesson that I learned was to not try to get the futsal ball high up in the air with my foot as it backfired on me.

Helena Lyons

Orienteering Sprint Champs

The van jolted violently up and down as we drove over the speed bump on our way to the orienteering sprint champs at Pakowhai Park in Hastings. I bit my fingernails anxiously as Tessa, Sophie, Lucy, Zoe and I walked out of the van door, up the hill and through the dog park's gate.

We found a wilting willow tree and left our belongings underneath it. I reached into my bag pocket, pulled out my compass, and slowly, with jelly legs, made my way over to the start with my SID chip. I pressed it shakily into the controls 'clear' and 'checked' and waited nervously for my name to be called.

I stood at the start, my hands shaking like I was just electrocuted. The buzzer did its final five beats and turned into a long, loud buzz, as if it had just taken its last breath. We bolted like a herd of zebras being chased by man-eating lions, all going in different directions, staring down at our maps, and trying to get to our first control. We all knew that what we did now could make or break where we placed in this very important competition. I stared down at my map, the pictures and the numbers spinning. I forced myself to just stop and focus. I took a deep breath and jogged my way over to my first control with trembling legs. From there on out I was in the zone. All I had to do was look down at my map and my legs carried me to where I wanted to go.

I panted, taking in short exasperated breaths. I was on my way to the last control. "I can do this!" I yelled in my head, not caring if everyone could hear it or not. I ran faster than ever before. The finish was in sight. Suddenly with a new burst of energy, I put my head down and ran like my life depended on it, and punched the finish control with a long, deserved breath. I then went and printed my results and waited for everyone to be finished, my heart still beating fast.

I looked at the television screen containing our results. I had a sausage in one hand and a Juicy in the other. I traced my finger in mid-air trying to find the Year 7 and 8 girls' results. There it was! I looked nervously for my name. Where was it? I slowly looked up and there it was, in bold letters and everything! Lydia Burns – 1st. I was overwhelmed with excitement! I had really won! In my head I was dancing like it was the best party in the world.

That night was so great. I felt awesome and I was really proud of myself for what I had achieved. Now, my goals have definitely changed. I have figured out that orienteering really is one of my passions and I think it's time to leave the yellow maps behind and move up on the difficulty scale.

Lydia Burns



EPro8 Challenge

It was 5pm. The squad of eight Woodford House girls bravely strode into the Havelock North Intermediate (HNI) school hall. Our stomachs were churning like a food mixer and words were spilling out of our mouths.



Excitedly, we chose a section in the seats to be our base for the next three hours. Quickly filling it up with bags, blazers and bodies, we made ourselves at home. We were overwhelmed by the number of teams, most of them being made up of HNI students! EPro8 was going to be a great event.

“3... 2... 1... go!” Flying into action, Ella, Helena, Lydia and I ripped open our starter challenge, the Measuring Wheel task, by far the easiest! We got straight into action by grabbing all sorts of rods, wires and joins to start creating our measuring wheel. First, we had to measure the outside of the wheel and determine how much ground one rotation of the wheel would cover. That ended up being 90cm exactly. With an excited glance between us, we hovered over the big red button. Hesitantly, Ella slammed down her hand. We looked up at our flashing lights expectantly. Where was our music? Being the first team to press the button, we were awaiting praise and glory. Quickly, the event manager scampered over to us. After apologising about our lack of music, he quickly studied our measuring wheel and scanned the barcode. We were first on the board with 20 points!

Realising that we had reached the end of our challenge, we let out a cheer as loud as a herd of elephants! Inconveniently, the last challenge was the messiest - it involved plastic balls, lots of plastic balls. Before long, the judge had given us our points and we were in the lead with just five minutes to go. Frantically, we cleaned up the masses of balls and shoved them underneath our workstation. We started on the second lot of challenges, even though we knew that we would never finish. The result was an unfinished challenge, and a whole load more mess to clean up.

“5... 4... 3... 2... 1! Tools down!” Cheers echoed all around us. The last time we had checked the scoreboard, the winning trophy was ours. However, we weren’t sure if that had changed in the last two minutes of competition. Nervously, we waited as the results were called. Third place was awarded to one of the many HNI teams, but we still had a glimmer of hope. As the judge announced the second place getters, we shared a look of disappointment between each other. There was no way that we could get first place... right?

“And in first place...congratulations to Woodford 1!” Not quite believing it, we let out whoops of surprise and stumbled to the stage to collect our trophy. It was a great finish to a great night, but there was a big question weighing on our minds - “How would we do in the upcoming regional finals?”

Jaimee Whittaker

Nga Tawa Equestrian Event 2019

Mum and I pulled out of our lengthy driveway extremely early in the morning at 5.00am. We had a ginormous day ahead of us and Mum had a lot of driving to do.

We arrived at Nga Tawa School at around 8.30am. I was very excited because it was going to be my first year representing Woodford House and competing at this event, and it was going to be lots of fun. I was riding my brother's pony, Tinks, and Mum and Dad's old horse, Ricky.



The head of equestrian at Woodford House, Amy Roydhouse, arrived just in time to help us learn our course. Amy was a lot of help because she pointed out the places in the course where we needed to be riding forward. I walked back to the truck and got up on the first pony I was riding -Tinks. Mum helped me warm up and I went into the ring as the announcer's voice echoed through the speaker, "Next we have Anna Wilson, from Woodford House, riding Tinks." And almost too soon to believe, "That was a double clear round from Anna and Tinks. That puts them in 3rd place!"

I was so happy with how Tinks jumped! Next, it was time to ride Rick. "A speedy round from Anna Wilson. That puts her at the top of the leaderboard," said the announcer. I was so happy with how both of the horses jumped.

The day ticked on and we had lots of fun cheering on our teammates. My teammates were really good at cheering me on too. Finally, it was time for the announcers to read out the prizes. I received a 1st place, a 2nd place and a 4th place. My teammate, Milly, received some ribbons too. What a fun, awesome day! I definitely cannot wait until next year.

Anna Wilson

