

Years 7 and 8 NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 • 2018



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Dear Parents, Caregivers and Whānau

Term 2, with the excitement of Winter Sport, numerous cultural opportunities and further House events, is already in full swing. Our Intermediate girls have made a really positive start to the year. The Year 8 girls are to be congratulated on their efforts to provide invaluable support to new students. Strong friendships have developed and the vast majority of girls have settled extremely well into the Woodford House family.

The year has already been filled with a myriad of exciting activities including our Year 7/8 EOTC Day, swimming sports, athletics, House Music and, of course, the Iona Social. It has been wonderful to see the girls fully embracing the opportunity to contribute to all four cornerstones of the School.

This newsletter is student driven and outlines some of the highlights and activities the girls have been involved in. All girls are encouraged to submit texts for publishing as it gives them the opportunity to share experiences from a personal perspective. I hope you enjoy reading the girls' contributions.

Hayley Dustin
Head of Intermediate



WOODFORD
HOUSE

Semester 1 Highlights

Netball Grading

The netball grading games were held at the Hastings Sports Park and our team did amazingly well. We played as a team and talked to each other, I'm so proud of the Woodford House White Team. My favourite part of one of our grading games was the lollies we got afterwards. I cannot wait for more games this season!

Charlotte Wray



Sport

My highlight so far has been all sport activities. Playing hockey and touch especially has been very fun. It's great playing with my friends.

Emily Jones



Extension Reading

On Day 3, Period 1, six girls, including myself, go to the library for a fun filled lesson of reading. Extension reading offers me opportunities to read different kinds of books. We are also learning more about writing techniques. I really enjoy being able to do extension reading and I cannot wait for more great lessons with Mrs Russell.

Grace Haliburton

Boarding

I've really enjoyed being at Woodford House. I like my boarding house the most. I am a full boarder and I stay in Nelson House. Our supervisor, Ms Wharehoka, looks after me and I have a lovely time with my friends. On weekends, we do activities such as trips to Napier or tenpin bowling. I would like to come back here from Thailand in the future.

Pinny Sinchaisri



An Augmented reality app called HP Reveal has been used to embed two videos into this newsletter. You will need to download the app and follow **IntermediateWoodfordHouse**. Look for the blue symbol on the photos and enjoy the video!

Debating

Something I have thoroughly enjoyed this term is debating. Five girls have been chosen to represent Woodford House at the Radio Kidnappers Debating Competition. Three girls compete every week against different schools. Our debating team is led by Mrs Carpenter, who we visit many times during the week. I think debating is helping me in many ways. I am becoming more confident, learning to write better debates and meeting new people. I hope this sets me up to become a great, argumentative debater in the future!

Tamzin Buck



Spanish

One of my favourite subjects is Spanish! I think it is amazing that girls at Woodford House get the opportunity to learn a language. All the girls in my Spanish class have learnt so much already. The teacher, Ms Dustin, is a great support to me and all the other girls. We have learnt to count up to 20, sing in Spanish, recount the days of the week and months of the year and much more. A Spanish project I have completed this term was my Spanish Calendar. I am really proud of it and I cannot wait for next year to learn more Spanish.

Ashley Thornicroft

Full Boarding

I'm in Nelson boarding house. I'm a full boarder so I tend to stay in during the weekends. It's a lovely time boarding as it's like having a sleep over every night with your friends.

After school a lot of us usually attend sport practice or cultural activities, and the rest hang out in the common rooms or go for a little walk to the trampolines. During the weekends there is usually an activity to take part in. We do exciting things like go to fairs, the beach or Splash Planet.

We are all like one big family with our wonderful supervisor, Ms Wharehoka, who keeps everything in line alongside our four fabulous boarding leaders. Boarding is a really fun thing to try. Come and board at Woodford House you won't regret it!

Molly Hartgill



Boarding

Nervously, I walked in the doors to the Morea boarding house. Wow, this was a big change for me! Having to organise myself without Mum; what am I going to do I thought?

That night I eventually got to sleep leaving my roommate Meghan awake because apparently I snore!

Morea boarding house is a fun and challenging boarding house. Not only do we have the kind and caring Mrs McAulay looking after us, we also have a few Year 12 girls boarding with us. They give us lots of support when we need comforting.

Boarding is a very cool opportunity. It teaches you to manage yourself and be more independent.

I love boarding.

Kyla Evans



Morea House

I am a new Year 7 student at Woodford House. I stay in the Morea Boarding House; it is a wonderful place to board. The Morea Boarding House is for weekly boarders. All the Year 8 girls from 2017 are really kind and caring to the new girls.

In Boarding there is an hour of prep (homework) every night. Prep goes from 6.30-7.30pm. After prep we all go downstairs and have supper.

Mrs McAulay is the Morea House supervisor, she is lovely. Mrs McAulay looks after everyone for the whole week.

Every girl shares a room with another student. I sleep in a room with 3 beds, but only 2 of us sleep in there. The boarding rooms are nice, comfortable and cosy. My roommate is Harriet Mackenzie.

The facilities are great, even better than home. Boarding is loads of fun! It is good to keep busy in the afternoon with sport and other activities. The food is so yummy, and everyone looks forward to the meals. I definitely recommend doing boarding, even if you just want to try it for a couple of days.

Tabatha Smith



Homework

Homework, who likes homework? At Woodford House we get homework. This was a big shock to me since at my old school we didn't get any homework at all.

At Woodford House, luckily we have Homework Club for those of us who are not used to doing any homework. Homework Club takes place once a week after school and is run by Academic Prefect, Emily Crosse. A bunch of lovely Year 13 students supervise us, bring food, and help us with our homework. Sometimes we even get to play a game of Kahoot at the end. Homework Club is fun!

Ella Good

Open Day

As the incredible Year 13 and Year 8 guides and visitors walked into our classroom, I looked at the girls with excitement. Today was Open Day, 23 March, at Woodford House. All students, including Year 7 and 8s, were a big part of this special day. Girls from all over the world would be coming to our school.



In our classroom we were busy working on a range of fun activities. We had interesting games, IT activities, problem-solving tasks and reading to share with the visitors. I'm pretty sure they enjoyed it and had a splendid time.

Later that day, I was thrilled with excitement to be helping in the technology block. All the new families that came in were so excited too. It was great to see the look on their faces when they saw the amazing cupcakes on the table. The first person I helped was a Year 4 student. She jumped over to me and I remembered she was the little girl I helped in Ms McKenna's class. I helped her decorate a beautiful, delicious cupcake.

At the end of the day we were so tired. Luckily, we were all given a cupcake and they were so scrumptious.

I really enjoyed the whole Open Day experience. It was a really fun day, welcoming visitors, sharing my learning, eating the cupcakes and spending time with my friends and the new girls.

Madi Stanford

Chapel

As I first approached the Woodford House Chapel I felt very nervous, yet excited to learn how the services ran. I listened to the beautiful voices of the choir as I walked silently down the aisle. I sat quietly while we went through the service.



Now that I fully understand how the Chapel services work, I know that they are a time to be joyful, peaceful and respectful. Chapel is a place where we can reflect and be grateful for all the wonderful people and things that we have in our lives.

Grace Haliburton

Epro8 Challenge

Anxiously, I stepped out of my car and glanced around the Havelock North Intermediate car park. I rushed hurriedly over to join a fellow Woodford House girl. We greeted each other and had a hushed conversation about the competition. We were both nervous, tonight was the annual Epro8 challenge.

Hastily, we strode across the school to the hall where the competition was being held. As the venue slowly filled with students from schools all over Hawke's Bay, the tension I became. Waiting was a nightmare.

At last the boarders arrived. We sorted out the teams and all began talking about strategies to keep the groups from falling apart. Abruptly, a man called across the hall and everyone hushed. It was time to start. After a quick briefing with a smile and a hand clap, the man showed us to our workstations.

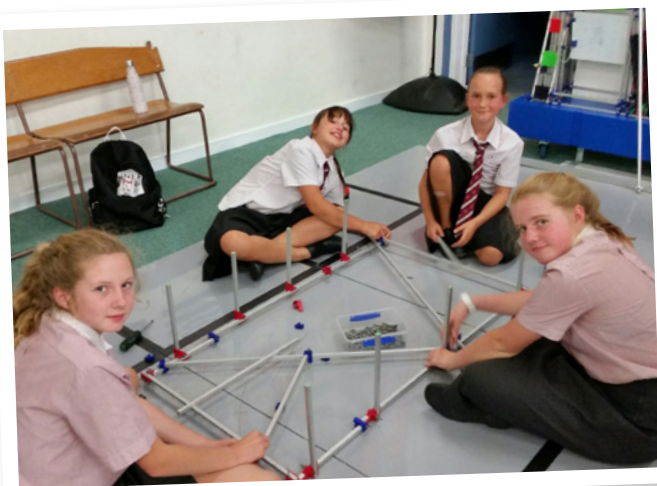
My team was the Woodford Wizzes, some of us had been to the challenge previously but we knew it would be harder this year. We were ready, victory was ours for the taking.

Suddenly, the hall burst into conversation as a single word was barked – go!

I jumped into action. Frantically, my team flipped through pages and decided to start with building a ladder, simple really.

However, it proved more difficult than suspected. The ladder folded into itself whenever we tried to stand it up, however, this problem would not stand in our way.

When finished with our creation, we all pressed the big red button and listened happily to the song that was repeated back to us. The judge approached our station, and we held our ladder proudly in front of him. He gave it a swift, hard thwack. Perfectly stable, our ladder held form. 50 points were awarded to our team - first place.



As we continued through the questions, other teams were catching up to us. We carried on to the other problems instead of focusing on just one, and the night flew by. In the final five minutes, we finished our last problem for the night of building a bed for Uncle Albert.

All too soon we had reached the end of the night, with my team in eighth place out of 12 teams. With smiles on our faces, we pranced out the door.

I really enjoyed the Epro8 challenge, however, next year we will win for sure.

Scarlett Miller

Twilight Athletics

Athletics was held on 16 March. Everyone had to do at least 4 events but all our House Leaders wanted us to do seven events to get more House points.

I'm in Rouncil. I didn't make it into any finals but even just doing the novelty events made my heart race. The good thing about athletics at Woodford House is that you don't have to be good to do athletics as long as you try your best.

All the Houses are so competitive - they all wanted to win. All the Houses were cheering their heads off all evening long.

Wallingford won Athletics followed by Tauroa, Rouncil and Frimley.

Athletics was a fun but exhausting evening. I can't wait till next year's athletics when I can try even harder.

Jessie Watkins

HB Swimming Championships

Finally, the night came for the Hawke's Bay Swimming Championships. It was around 5.45 pm when the Woodford House van pulled up at the Flaxmere swimming pool for the competition.

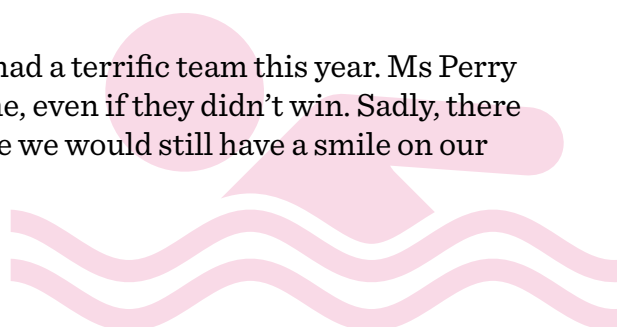
We stepped inside the building and I scanned the giant pool area. I saw heaps of older kids in professional racing togs. They looked very intimidating. We scattered over to our area and got a quick briefing about the night.

When the first heat was called, we all left the briefing and strolled over. I stood up on the block, remembering my four rules—thumbs over the edge, jump far and high, arms into streamline, four butterfly kicks, two breaths. Without remembering I was at the start of a race, I heard a man start yelling, "Take your marks, get set, go!" Everyone was shouting and cheering on Georgie and I as we dashed across the 25m pool. All I could hear were Anna, Alex, Esther, Scarlett and Ms Perry shouting, "Go Woodford!" Our results were amazing, a first and a second.

Each heat was really nerve racking, whether you were racing or just watching your friend race. It was relay time and the Year 8 girls went over to the marshal along with another team. We ended up letting the other team go first and then we raced in the boys relay instead, coming second in our heat.

Overall every one of the swimmers did really well and we had a terrific team this year. Ms Perry was very proud of us all and everyone had an awesome time, even if they didn't win. Sadly, there was no prize giving. We knew that whatever place we came we would still have a smile on our faces. We can't wait to see what happens next year.

Molly Kinnear



Tennis Games

“Come on Tamzin,” I said to myself. “Ball toss out in front, drop the racket in between the shoulder blades, bend the knees, launch and serve.” Ace!

“You go girl. Woohoo, nice one!” Everyone applauded.

And with that super ace I crushed the Iona student 6-0. I have really enjoyed playing tennis for Woodford House. I have got to play with all my friends and visit schools I never knew existed. We have met so many new people and we have loved it! When it came to the matches, we are feisty and super keen to win!

Tennis games are played every Tuesday, in Term 1, for girls that are super passionate about tennis or just wanting to play a new sport. When we play, everyone is yelling out, supporting and encouraging you to try your best. No one cares about how good you are, as long as you are having fun that’s all that matters. Everyone gets put in a team based on skill level. I was in Premier 1 and enjoyed the opportunity to socialise with kids I’ve never hung out with before.

Surprisingly, I won a lot of matches! Overall, I think tennis games are splendid- they are so great for you and help you stay fit and healthy.

Tamzin Buck

Touch Rugby

My heart fluttered joyfully in my chest as my team and I approached the rugby field. Together we jogged into our positions. The afternoon sun beamed down on us as I glanced at my team, inhaled deeply and stood patiently with anticipation. The screech in my ears resounded and I lurched forward. This was it - game on!

Rapidly, I flung my head around searching frantically for someone to pass the ball to. Upon feeling a hand slam into my shoulder, harder than necessary, I placed down the ball. Soon the game was back in action. Our teammates and coaches bellowed orders at us from the sideline. I grinned as the ball again came into my possession. Taking my chances, I sprinted towards the opposition and dodged them skillfully.

“Grace,” Ashley screamed, “I’m open!”

I spun the ball in her direction and held my breath as she dashed for the try line. Excited grins spread across our faces. Ashley’s winning try meant our first victory had just been accomplished.

Delightedly, we shook hands with our opponents and trotted off the field. With broad smiles plastered on our faces, we headed back to the bus. Feeling contented, I hoped for our success to continue. “I can’t wait for next week,” I chirped to my friends.

Grace Haliburton

House Music

“Clap, Clap, Clap!” Nervous girls spun around to face a hall full of parents. With bright spotlights radiating against my face, I stared expectantly at Tessa, our Frimley House leader, to start our performance.

We sang the last word of our first item and bowed our heads as the lights dimmed. Ahead of us, parents applauded and whistled. “Okay,” I thought. “That wasn’t so bad.”

Once again, the lights turned on (not as brightly this time) and my eyes flickered the tiniest bit upwards to see everyone else keeping their head down. “Whoops!” We stood there staring at our feet while a single spotlight rested on the two soloists.

Suddenly, light emanated from the spotlights and we excitedly sang the first four lines of We Are Family (adapted to We Are Frimley of course), and made our way back to the Drama Room.

The night wasn’t over for me yet.... I was anxiously pacing around the Drama Room just ten minutes before my piano solo. “If I play just like I practised, I’ll be fine,” I kept telling myself.

As I entered the hall, I scanned the audience to look for anyone I knew but it was too dark. I caught a few parents eyeballing me as I made my way to the other side of the hall. I was introduced and half-trembling, I climbed up the stairs onto the stage.

I had played in concerts before, but the largest audience I had performed in front of was only about 100. This was at least double. I have always hated public speaking or doing anything at all in front of a huge audience so I was definitely having the time of my life right now. All eyes were on me as I sat down and started playing. The piano was a bit different from the piano I had practised on, but that was fine. My hands half-stumbled over the keys as I tried to cover up a mistake or two. The audience didn’t seem to notice and I received a raucous round of applause as I played the last note and tried not to rush off the stage.

“Okay,” I thought. “Maybe performing in public could be my thing after all!”

Meghan Wuisan



Lisa Blair Visits Woodford House

On Thursday 17 May, Lisa Blair visited our school to tell us her story about her amazing trip around Antarctica. Lisa is the first woman to sail solo and unassisted around Antarctica.

At first, Lisa could only dream to be the first woman to sail around Antarctica unassisted. With hard work and determination, Lisa’s dream became reality on 25 July 2017. She spent more than 184 days sailing in treacherous sea conditions. She even faced a snow storm.

At one point she had to battle a severed mast. The journey wasn’t easy, but she never gave up and made it to the very end. One of the reasons she challenged herself to do this was to sail for climate change. Her boat is covered with post-it note messages from people all over the world about protecting our environment, including the oceans. We enjoyed meeting Lisa Blair and hearing her inspirational story.

Nina Holden and Rosa Pike



Making Piñatas!

“¡Escuchad Chicas!” Ms Dustin exclaimed. All of the Spanish pupils turned their head and listened eagerly to their next instruction.

Ms Dustin explained that the class were going to make piñatas in groups. Rosa, Esther and I looked at each other in unison, we giggled as we all knew we would be the perfect group.

We planned and then decided we would make a taco. Our group knew exactly what we were going to do and couldn't wait to get started. The next Spanish lesson we caught up on what we were going to do and made the shape of the taco. We then brushed the face of reality, this was going to be a bit harder than we thought. Our group glued, cut and pasted their way out of existence!

Even though we had a few problems to solve, we finished and were all very happy with our final result. Our hard work paid off and we were rewarded with an Excellence! We were all so happy with our efforts and couldn't wait to get a baseball bat and start smashing our piñata!

Charlotte Wray



The Social

The long awaited Iona social was upon us! Immediately after driving up the Iona driveway the nerves set in. Nervously, but trying to look bold, the Woodford House girls entered the cramped hall clutching each other.

Loud music was playing out of the speakers on stage. The hall was divided, the boys were on one side and the girls were on the other. The boys must have been told to get closer because we soon found them closing in on us. Now we were all mixed together into one big crowd. Many people were just walking around and chatting so not much dancing was happening at this stage. The photo booth proved to be very popular.

The music was pumping louder than ever. Everyone was dancing now! Suddenly a piercing pain appeared in my side - a stitch! I stopped dancing and clutched my side. I didn't want to worry anyone so I continued to smile and dance rather jerkily. I think I ate my brownie (part of the snack provided) too fast!

The pain was manageable but I didn't feel like dancing anymore so I was very glad when the parents started to arrive and I left with my Mum. I hope that when the next social is upon me I will take more care with eating my dessert!

Gabriella Jones



My Family War Heroes

We are currently learning about the ANZAC soldiers, what they went through and their significance in World War I. I had a total of six great great uncles who were involved or fought in different battles throughout the war. Sadly, three of them lost their lives.

My Aunty (from my Mum's side) compiled a large book about Our Family War Heroes. It is made up of original letters sent home and received, including some from in the trenches, diaries, photos and memorabilia. This book also has a lot of detail about life during the war, the ships they went over on and information about the families back home.

One of my uncles fought in the Passchendaele battle and received a Military Cross. Another fought in the Battle of Le Quesnoy. So I decided it would be great to be able to share this with the class. I was also able to show the original telegram that the government sent to my great great grandparents when one uncle had died. It simply read, "Frederick Dear, died of wounds."

Esther Dear



WOODFORD HOUSE