



Woodbrook Vale  
School



# WOODBROOK VALE

2025/2026

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



## UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

Please visit our school website for more information

**May Bank Holiday**  
School closed

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026**  
Reopen Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**DofE Bronze Expedition  
Skills Training**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**DofE Bronze Training Walk**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Paris Parents' Information  
Evening**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Year 7 Parents Evening**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

# Congratulations



Congratulations all!

Our students went above and beyond demonstrating the core values of our school.



[www.wbvs.co.uk](http://www.wbvs.co.uk)



[office@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:office@wbvs.co.uk)



01509 557560



Woodbrook Vale  
School



Elsie has been fantastic at the events and clubs she has been involved with. At the recent primary school Netball competition, she officiated with confidence and enthusiasm, ensuring the players understood the rules and enjoyed themselves. Elsie was clear and consistent with her calls, and she did a great job motivating the players on court, recognising their skills on display. Elsie attends every meeting and contributes her ideas to the group, asking questions and is always eager to improve her leadership.



[www.wbvs.co.uk](http://www.wbvs.co.uk)



[office@wbvs.co.uk](mailto:office@wbvs.co.uk)



01509 557560



## DONATIONS

HELP

Down in the food room we are desperate for spare containers as lots of students forget to bring a tub to take their food home in.

If you know you have any unwanted take away tubs or chocolate tubs at home, please could you donate them to the food room?



### We're on the hunt for pre-loved Woodbrook Vale blazers!

If you have any unwanted blazers please  
donate them to the main reception!

Thank you



# SCIENCE



## CONUNDRUM of the WEEK

### Last Weeks Answer

When you react sodium thiosulphate with hydrochloric acid why does the liquid turn cloudy - Because the reaction produces sulphur, sulphur dioxide, water, and sodium chloride. The formation of insoluble sulphur makes the solution turn cloudy.

Which reagent would you use to test if a food contains protein?





# CAREERS

## APPRENTICESHIP ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

The Apprenticeship Programme at Linde is designed to cultivate top-tier engineers who can meet the growing demand for workshop, field, and site-based roles. As an apprentice, you'll embark on a journey to become a fully proficient Linde Engineer, combining college education with hands-on experience.

An apprenticeship is a work-based learning programme, where you earn while you learn. It builds industry-specific knowledge, skills, and behaviours through on and off the job training to make sure you are competent in your role. An end-point assessment ensures competency. All apprentices must achieve Functional Skills in Math's and English.

Linde have partnered with SMB College to deliver the 3-year Lift Truck and Powered Access Engineering Technician Apprenticeship (Level 3).



## UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM - GETTING INTO GAMING

We are delighted to invite you and your students to attend our Getting into Games: Advice and Insight from Andy Wilson, COO, Sledgehammer Games

- Date: Wednesday 6th May 2026
- Time: 6.30pm (Doors open: 5.45pm) – 8.00pm
- Location: B52 Auditorium, Business School South, Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham, Wollaton Road, Nottingham, NG8 1BB

As Chief Operating Officer for Sledgehammer Games, University of Nottingham graduate Andy Wilson (Computer Science, 2001) has worked within some of the biggest video game franchises in the history of the medium, including Call of Duty. If you're interested in a career in the industry, here's your chance to get ahead of the game with advice and insight from the man behind the controller!

The event will cover:

- The structure of a typical games team and the publisher/developer relationship
- Core disciplines and roles
- A typical Project Lifecycle
- Advice for aspiring game developers in the current climate, including tools and technologies to be aware of
- Career journeys of the Sledgehammer Development Team
- Current and future trends to consider

To register, please ask your parent or guardian to complete this form as it is mandatory that they accompany you. Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/iaAWr1EnuE>





## YEAR 9 VISIT TO STEPHEN GEORGE PARTNERS ARCHITECTS

This week a group of 30 Year 9 students had the opportunity to get an experience of the workplace at Stephen George and Partners Architects. Before the visit they had an introduction to architectural engineering delivered by Miss Johnson to prepare for the visit - students looked at different types of materials used in the construction industry and which are best to create low carbon, better buildings for the future.



Some of the skills needed for careers in architecture are; design and creativity, problem solving, analytical thinking, computer and digital skills and having a good understanding of maths and physics is also helpful. A degree is needed to qualify as an architect, taking 7 years to complete at university, including an industry placement year, or alternatively via a degree apprenticeship route. Here is the link to SGP's Better Buildings website, specially designed for schools:



Students visited SGP offices and were given a tour of their bright offices overlooking a lakeland area, and met some of the staff working there. After a very informative talk students were tasked with designing their own buildings. The brief was to come up with an innovative design which would be appealing, low in carbon emissions and would be built using some alternative materials, such as glulam, earth and living walls.

Students were invited to present their finished concepts to the group and explain the reasons behind their designs and choices of materials. The winners, Megan Linkevicius and Reina Zainudin both from 9AE received prizes for their fantastic designs.





Woodbrook Vale School



Entry price includes FREE T-Shirt & Refreshments £20 adults / £6 child

# CHARITY BIKE RIDE 2026



SUNDAY, 17<sup>th</sup> MAY  
9am START



Join us!

Alpine House Surgery are hosting their Charity Bike Ride for a second year. This time, to raise funds to support two wonderful local hospices, LOROS and Rainbows. Both charities do incredible work giving care and providing support for children, adults and their families during their time of need.

All abilities welcome! Our figure 8 route will cover 54km of the local area. A shorter route of 22km is available by completing the first loop only. We have also introduced a smaller route this year of 11km for families and children aged 10 and over (must be competent cyclists). All children under 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent or carer.

ROUTE MAPS AVAILABLE FROM ALPINE HOUSE  
[www.alpinehousesurgery.co.uk](http://www.alpinehousesurgery.co.uk)

Donations (via Just Giving) In addition to the Registration fee, if you are being Sponsored for the event or wish to donate to either or both Charities, please scan the relevant QR code below. Any donations appreciated even if you are NOT taking part in the event.



REGISTER HERE

To book your place, please scan this QR code



100% OF ALL MONEY RAISED WILL BE SPLIT EQUALLY BETWEEN OUR TWO CHARITIES



Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

New Strategy Based Films for parents/carers and Professionals New for 2026

<p><b>What is Emotionally Based School Avoidance</b></p>	<p><b>Risk factors for Emotionally Based School Avoidance</b></p>	<p><b>Tips for Emotionally Based School Avoidance</b></p>
<p><b>Thriving with ADHD in school</b></p>	<p><b>ADHD and sleep</b></p>	<p><b>Reframing ADHD</b></p>
<p><b>Girls and ADHD</b></p>	<p><b>ADHD – order out of chaos</b></p>	<p><b>Growing older and changing ADHD symptoms</b></p>
<p><b>The importance of sleep</b></p>	<p><b>Tips to support sleep optimisation</b></p>	

To watch the videos, scan these QR codes



Options after completing the first loop:

- 1 Carry straight onto the second loop.
- 2 Stop for drinks and refreshments before tackling the second loop.
- 3 Finish if you feel the second loop is too much.

Route information:  
 - First loop 22km (approx 14 miles)  
 - Second loop 32km (approx 20 miles)  
 - Family loop 11km (approx 7 miles)

**Upcoming Events 2026**

SCAN ME

MARCH 28	<b>Safe Steps- Road Safety Project</b> St Peter's Church- 11.00am to 1.00pm BOOKING REQUIRED
APRIL 11	<b>Diet/Food and Menopause</b> St Peter's Church- 11.00am to 1.00pm BOOKING REQUIRED <small>Holland Barrett WELLBEING OF WOMEN 2023 grant winner</small>
APRIL 25	<b>Safe Steps- Road Safety Project</b> St Peter's Church- 11.00am to 1.00pm BOOKING REQUIRED
MAY 09	<b>Cancer Neurodiversity Group</b> St Peter's Church- 11.00am to 1.00pm BOOKING REQUIRED <small>MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT</small>
MAY 23	<b>Safe Steps- Road Safety Project</b> St Peter's Church- 11.00am to 1.00pm BOOKING REQUIRED

If you would like more information or would like to join our WhatsApp group to keep up to date with our sessions:

[www.neurodiversitysupport.org](http://www.neurodiversitysupport.org) / [admin@neurodiversitysupport.org](mailto:admin@neurodiversitysupport.org)  
Mobile: 07957 377 770/ 07934 591 061/ 07398 997 187  
To donate: Neurodiversity Support CIC  
Sort code: 08-92-99 / Account: 67336186





**Woodbrook Vale School**



Do you have experience of waiting for mental health support? We Want to Hear From You!

Share your experience of waiting for:

- Mental health support
- Autism or ADHD assessments
- Other neurodivergence assessments
- Waiting can be hard – for young people and families.
- Your voice can help improve what support looks like during that time.



Why are we asking?

This survey is part of the Joined Up Institute project by UK Youth, working with organisations across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. Although we can't shorten waiting lists, we can improve the experience while people wait.



We want to know what helped you:

- ✓ Coping skills or strategies
- ✓ Supportive people
- ✓ Activities, groups or services
- ✓ Helpful resources

(Formal or informal – anything that made the wait easier)

We have two short anonymous surveys: one for young people and one for parents or carers. They take just a few minutes to complete.

Please complete them by midnight on 9 April 2026.

Please also share the survey with others who may have experience of waiting for support – more responses mean more ideas to improve things.



[Click here for Young persons form](#)



[Click here for Parent and carers form](#)

# IS THE GOVERNMENT BANNING CHIPS?

You may have seen various stories in the media this week about school dinners. The government is looking to update the current School Food Standards as they have not been updated in the last 10 years.

There is a chance for parents and carers to give their feedback to the government on the proposals.

Follow the link below where you will find the proposal documents at the bottom of the page and the link to complete the online survey.

The survey is available until June 2026.

**CLICK HERE**

COME AND GIVE IT A TRY TASTER SESSIONS

## GIRLS RUGBY AT LOUGHBOROUGH RFC



OPEN TO AGES 5-15 YEARS (RECEPTION TO YEAR 10)

**SAT 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL. 12-4PM**

Fun rugby activities 12-1:30pm followed by free food and Then watch England v Wales LIVE on the big screen as the Women's Six Nations Championship kicks off!

**SUN 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE. & SAT 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 10AM-12PM**

Fun rugby activities followed by a picnic and music!



## FAMILY SUMMER TOUCH RUGBY

**EVERYONE WELCOME AND IT'S FREE!**

WE WILL BE RUNNING TOUCH RUGBY FOR EVERY FAMILY MEMBER! MEN, WOMEN, TEENAGERS & CHILDREN. THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!  
NO RUGBY EXPERIENCE NEEDED. JUST TURN UP FOR FITNESS, FUN & FRIENDS!  
UNDER 13'S TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**EVERY WEDS STARTING WEDS 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 18:30 - 19:30**

LOUGHBOROUGH RFC, DERBY ROAD PLAYING FIELD, LOUGHBOROUGH, LE11 5FJ  
PLEASE EMAIL [FEMALERUGBY@LRF.COM](mailto:FEMALERUGBY@LRF.COM) TO REGISTER OR MESSAGE 07821283344

CONTACT: [FEMALERUGBY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FEMALERUGBY@GMAIL.COM)  
DERBY ROAD PLAYING FIELDS, COTTON WAY, LOUGHBOROUGH LE11 5FJ



# Woodbrook Vale Clubs

## Woodbrook Vale Clubs – Autumn Term 2025-26

Day	Club	Staff Member	Year Group (s)	Time	Room	Starting Date	End Date
Monday	Christian Union	Mr Lewney	All Years	12.30 - 1.10 pm	Room 15	September 2025	ongoing
	Drama – production rehearsal	Mrs Hopkinson	Cast members	12.45 – 1.10 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	End Jan
	Drama Club	Mrs Hopkinson	All Years	3 - 4 pm	Drama studio	October 2025	ongoing
Tuesday	Darts Club	Mr Clargo	KS4	12:35 – 1:10 pm	Room 12	September 2025	ongoing
	Mindfulness Club	Miss Vaughan	All Years	12:25 – 1:10 pm	Room 1	September 2025	ongoing
	Drama – production rehearsal	Mrs Hopkinson	Cast Members	12.45 – 1.10 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	Jan '26
	Drama – Theatre Tech Club	Mrs Hopkinson	All Years – flexible session limited no.s	3 – 4 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	ongoing
	Homework Club	Miss Roberts	All Years	3 – 4 pm	Library	September 2025	ongoing
Wednesday	GCSE Drama Rehearsals & Intervention	Mrs Hopkinson	Year 10&11 GCSE	12.45 – 1.10 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	ongoing
	KS4 Documentary Club	Miss Vaughan	Years 10 & 11	12.30 - 1.10 pm	Room 5	October 2025	ongoing
	Homework Club	Miss Roberts	All Years	3 – 4 pm	Library	September 2025	ongoing
Thursday	Darts Club	Mr Clargo	KS4	12:35 – 1:10 pm	Room 12	September 2025	ongoing
	GCSE Drama Rehearsals & Intervention	Mrs Hopkinson	Year 10&11 GCSE	12.45 – 1.10 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	ongoing
	School Production Rehearsal	Mrs Hopkinson	Cast members	3 – 4.30pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	Jan 2026
	Homework Club	Miss Roberts	All Years	3 – 4 pm	Library	September 2025	ongoing
Friday	Drama Production Choreography	Mrs Hopkinson	Choreography Team	12.45 – 1.10 pm	Drama Studio	October 2025	End Jan '26
	School Production	Mrs Hopkinson	Cast Members	3 – 4 p m	Drama Studio	May 2025	ongoing

linguaspote website - the password has changed to **international20**, the username is still woodbrook



## Homework Club

### A safe, supportive environment

Looking for a quiet and supportive space to get your homework done? Come along to the Homework Club in the school library every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. Open to students from all year groups, the Homework Club is the perfect place to focus on your assignments, study, or catch up on work. There's no obligation to stay for the entire hour—drop in for as long as you need! Whether you're looking for a peaceful environment to concentrate or need some guidance with your tasks, the Homework Club is here





# SCIENCE REVISION

SCIENCE REVISION	YR 11		
Monday Date	Topic	Room	
16/03/2026	PHYS	25	Lab 3
23/03/2026	BIO	Lab 1	Lab 3
30/03/2026	EASTER		
06/04/2026			
13/04/2026	CHEM	Lab 3	Lab 2
20/04/2026	BIO	Lab 3	Lab 2
27/04/2026	PHYS	25	Lab 2
04/05/2026	CHEM	Lab 2	Lab 3
11/05/2026	BIO	Lab 3	Lab 1
18/05/2026	PHYS	25	Lab 3



## Upcoming Sports Fixtures



### Athletics

All years  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

Sign up in the sports hall!

### Boys Cricket

U12  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

U14  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April

U15 (T20)  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May

### Girls Cricket

U13  
Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April

U15  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May



## Woodbrook Vale Sports Clubs



Day	Club	Year Group	Time	Location
Monday	Badminton	Year 10	Lunch 12:25-1pm	Sports hall
Tuesday	Girls Football	KS3	After school 3-4pm	Field
	Boys Futsal	Year 7 & 8	After school 3-4pm	Sports hall
Wednesday	Basketball	All years	Lunch 12:25-1pm	Sports hall
Thursday	Athletics	All years	After school 3-4pm	Field
Friday	Badminton	Year 11	Lunch 12:25-1pm	Sports hall





# A PARENTS GUIDE TO

# SPARX MATHS



## WHAT IS SPARX MATHS?

Sparx Maths Homework is an online learning platform that creates personalised maths homework for students aged 11-16.

We believe that practice makes perfect, so each week, your child's teacher selects the topics that have been taught in class and we build a personalised set of questions to match your child's current level of understanding.

Our aim is for all children to strive for 100% completion of their homework.

By consistently using Sparx Maths, your child can build a solid foundation in maths and achieve their full potential.

## WHY IS MY CHILD ENCOURAGED TO DO WRITTEN WORK AS WELL AS ONLINE?

We believe that written work is essential in supporting your child's understanding of maths and to help them create positive habits.

Sparx provides bookwork checks to encourage your child to do written work when they're answering questions in Sparx Maths. These checks remind students to write down the question and their working, which is helpful if they get stuck as teachers can see where they are going wrong. We advise your child to do this work either in the back of their exercise book or at your discretion, a notebook dedicated for their maths work.

## HOW YOUR CHILD WILL LOGIN TO SPARX MATHS?

- Search for 'Sparx Maths student login' in google search engine
- Click on Student Login
- Type Woodbrook Vale School into the select your school box
- Then click on Woodbrook Vale School and press continue
- Now select Log in to Sparx using Google
- The student's username and password are the same as they use to login into the computers in school

## WHAT IF MY CHILD IS REPEATEDLY GETTING AN ANSWER WRONG AND CAN'T COMPLETE THEIR HOMEWORK?

Sometimes when your child is completing their homework they might keep getting an answer wrong which prevents their homework from being complete. To help with this, we encourage your child to watch the helpful support video for that question and if they are still stuck, then they can use the new question swap feature which will give them an easier question to attempt. They can use this feature three times in each homework. If your child needs further help after this then we would encourage them to ask their teacher for support before the homework deadline.

## HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH THEIR SPARX MATHS HOMEWORK?

We believe your child can answer all of the questions correctly in their homework, but we know there may be times when they struggle, so how can you support your child with their homework?

Our top three tips for you and your child when using Sparx Maths...

- Encourage them to tackle it on their own
- Nudge them to use the support videos
- Suggest that they start early to give plenty of time for help if they need it.

## WHAT IS XP?

- Sparx XP or 'Experience Points' is an effort based points system that we as a school will use to support and inform a reward scheme.
- Pupils can go to the Independent Learning tab and find topics and activities at any time. This will also be so valuable to aid any revision for examinations and assessments too.
- Students earn XP when they complete a task or win a reward game.
- Tasks from different homework types earn different numbers of points, for example students can earn more XP if they complete XP Boost and Target homework tasks compared with Compulsory ones.
- Students go up a Sparx level for every 10,000 XP they collect.
- They can be encouraged to increase their number of XP by completing all of their XP Boost and Target homework.
- Certificates are awarded for levels attained.
- There will be prizes awarded termly for the pupils with most XP points and most improved XP points.

## IN CONCLUSION

Teachers select topics that have been taught in class. Sparx Maths builds a personalised set of questions. Students complete their homework online. Teachers monitor homework so they can motivate and support students. Parents can monitor homework using Go4Schools and receive an email from Sparx before homework is due. Teachers receive powerful insights each week with the pupils attainment.

If you require any more information then please go to <https://sparxmaths.com/parents/> or contact your child's maths teacher.