



Friday 17th January 2024

Headteachers report of the week

At Woodlands, we believe in nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit of our learners. Our enterprise program is designed to equip learners with the skills, knowledge and mindset needed to thrive in the world of business and innovation. Through a combination of classroom learning, hands-on projects and real-world experiences, our learners are developing into the entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

We have many talented creative learners at Woodlands, Art in school is a vital part of education that nurtures creativity, enhances cognitive and motor skills, fosters emotional and social growth, celebrates cultural diversity and inspires future careers.

Learners have been exploring the joy of upcycling, it's not only a great way to reduce waste and promote sustainability, but it also allows you to create one-of-a-kind pieces that reflect your personal style. By making an upcycled lamp, you're not just crafting a functional item; you're also telling a story and giving new life to something that might have otherwise been discarded.

Lower School pizza-making activity this week was a memorable and delightful experience for our learners. It combined learning with fun, resulting in a delicious end product that everyone enjoyed. We look forward to more culinary adventures in the future, where learners can continue to explore the joys of cooking and baking.

Best Wishes

Jules

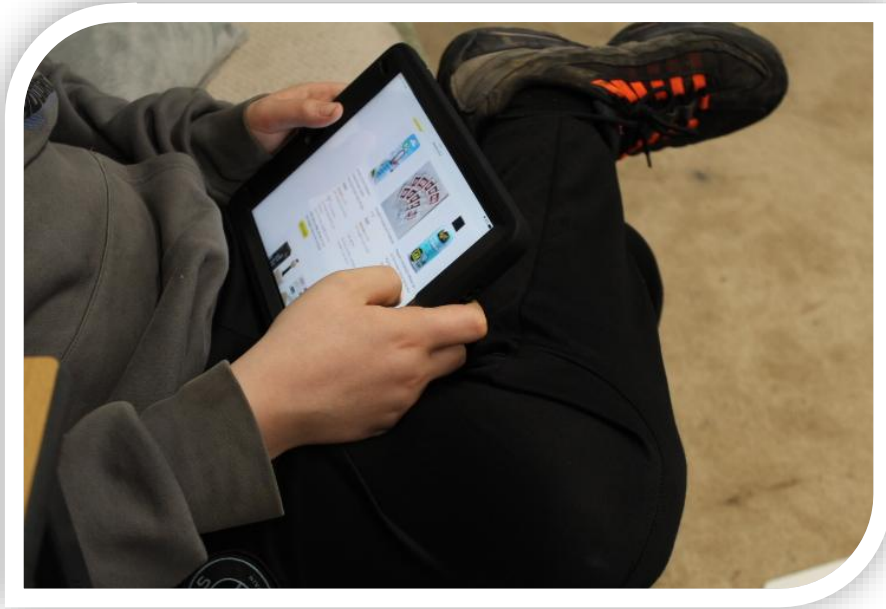


Enterprise



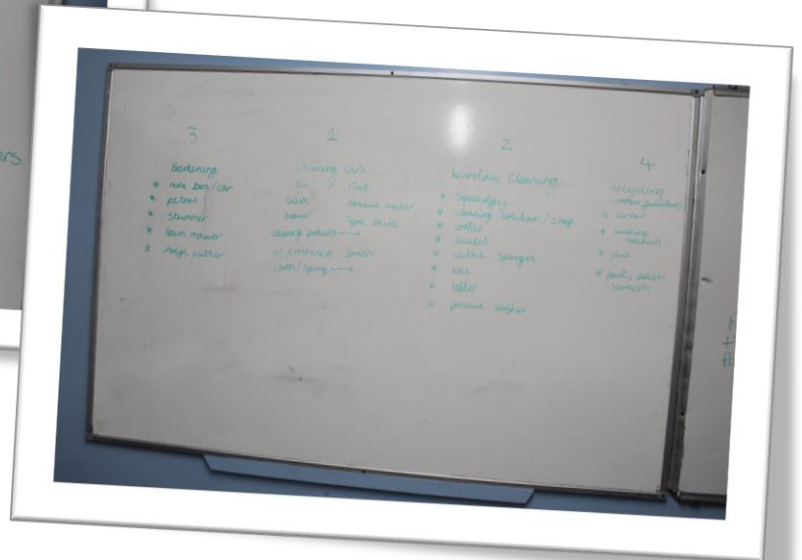
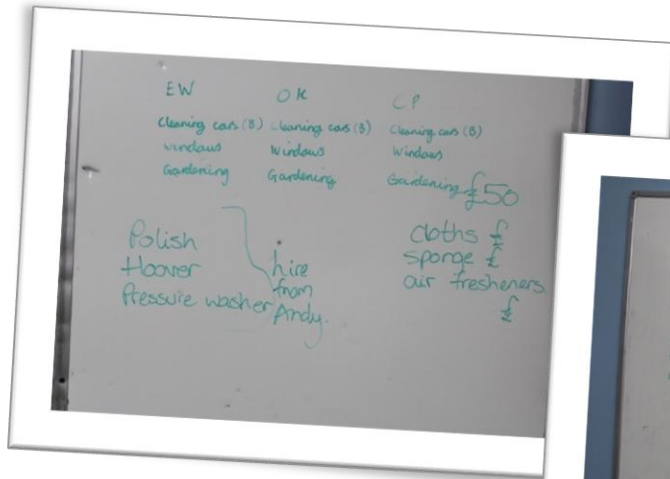
Our enterprise learners have started on their group projects. Each team has been given £50, with this they will perform their own market research, business planning, financial management and marketing to start their own business.

One of the highlights of our enterprise program is that learners are encouraged to think creatively to solve problems and develop innovative solutions to real-world challenges.



Our enterprise groups embarked on an exciting journey of market research. This crucial step in their entrepreneurial projects provided them with valuable insights to help them make decisions about their business ideas.





With a wealth of information found, learners began refining their plans. They adjusted pricing and marketing strategies based on their research and ticked off their checklists to ensure all areas were covered.

Organization

Planning Checklist

CHECKLIST

- Decide on how to raise money
- Decide on a date to carry it out
- Plan the budget for cost of resources
- Buy necessary resources
- Look at how to promote your business
- Create logo for business
- Create advertisements for your business
- Plan what each person will be doing
- Complete price list and details of service
- Create Logo
- Carry out service
- Evaluate the business
- Reflect on the business

Focus on Art

At Woodlands, creativity is not just encouraged, it's celebrated. From the moment our younger learners step into the classroom, they are immersed in an environment that fosters imagination, innovation and artistic expression.

We believe that creativity is fuelled by curiosity. We encourage learners to explore new ideas. Destiny explored making a flower with different materials that were available to her. She needed to problem solve, with what she would use and needed the ability to think outside the box.





Millie is working on an extraordinary piece of art. Her painting of a lion has captured the hearts and imaginations of everyone who has seen it, earning her well-deserved praise and admiration.

Millie, a dedicated and passionate young artist, chose to paint a lion for her latest project. She was inspired by the lion's majestic presence and wanted to convey its strength and nobility through her work. Over several weeks Millie will be working on this masterpiece bringing the lion to life on her canvas.

For Millie, this painting represents more than just a school project. It's a testament to her hard work, creativity and passion for art. With dedication and perseverance, amazing things can be achieved.



By nurturing the creative spirit of our learners, we are helping to shape the innovators, artists and thinkers of tomorrow

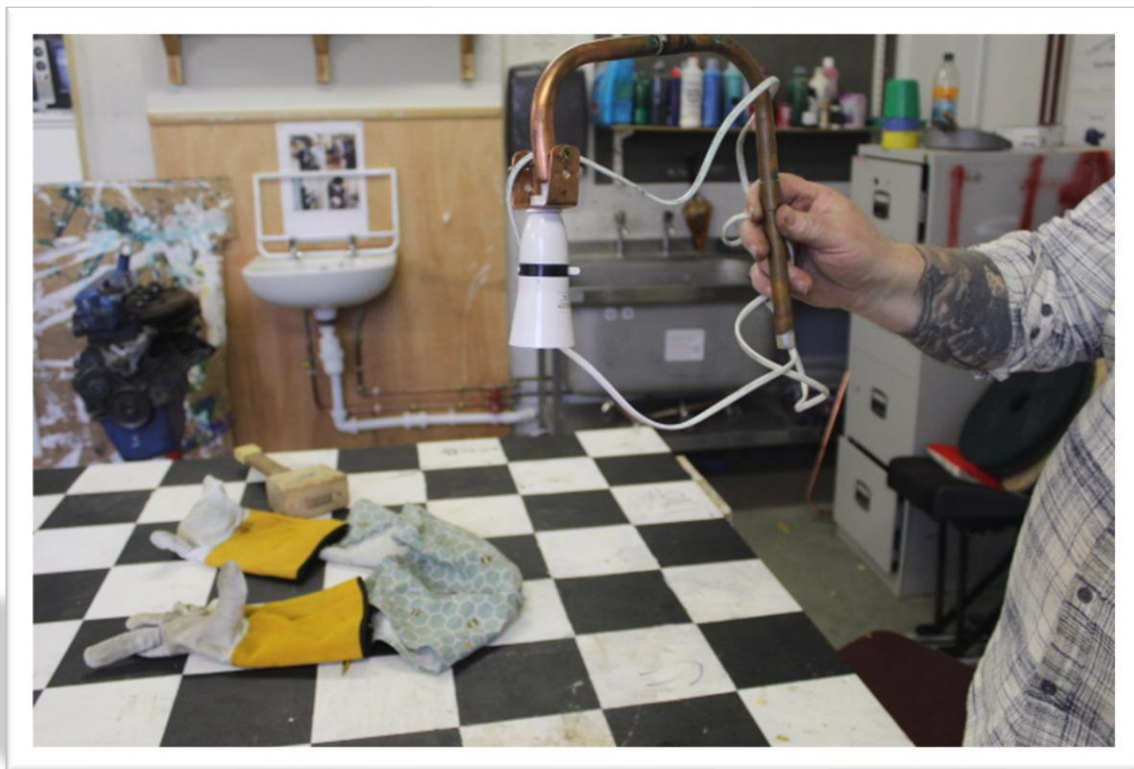


Upcycling

In a world where sustainability is becoming increasingly important, upcycling has emerged as a creative and eco-friendly way to give new life to old items.



Making an upcycled lamp is a fun and rewarding project that allows you to combine creativity with sustainability.





Jodie made this Chocolate
Brownie to take home for her
parents. She worked
independently, washed up and put
away equipment. It was a pleasure
to watch.

- Debbie J

Lower School's Pizza Making Adventure



Our lower school learners had a fantastic time learning how to make their own pizzas in Food Tech. This hands-on activity was not only fun, but also a great educational experience.

Learners learnt valuable skills such as measuring, mixing and teamwork. They gathered all the necessary ingredients for their pizzas, pizza dough, tomato sauce, cheese and toppings.

Learners began by rolling out their pizza dough into individual bases. They learned how to handle the dough gently and shape into perfect circles, creating a solid foundation for their delicious creations.



Carefully learners spread the tomato sauce over the pizza, leaving a small border around the edge for the crust.

Next came the cheese, sprinkling generous handfuls, ensuring even distribution. They learned about the importance of balance, aiming for just the right amount to achieve a melty, gooey topping.

The most exciting part was choosing and adding the toppings, creating a unique and personalised pizza. With the oven preheated to the right temperature, the baking trays were carefully placed inside. Eagerly learners watched on as their pizzas transformed, bubbling and browning to perfection!





Millie is enjoying her GCSE English lesson, analysing themes, characters and dramatic techniques. The GCSE English lesson is a blend of individual analysis, collaborative learning and practical application, designed to foster a deep understanding and appreciation of literature.



Work from this morning, English lesson, we are looking at dystopian fiction, the learners are working on a piece of work where they identify dystopian and utopian conventions

- Wendy

Acorns 1 - Forest School

– On top of the World! – Debbie G





Career of the week

Entertainer

Entertainers perform for audiences in stage, cabaret or comedy shows.

Average salary (a year): variable

Typical hours (a week): 45 to 47 a week (irregular/evenings/weekends/bank holidays/away from home)

You can get into this job through:

College

It may be useful to do a college course in:

- performing arts
- musical theatre
- drama and theatre
- music

This would help you to develop your talent and learn some of the skills you may need.

Entry requirements

Entry requirements for these courses vary.

Volunteering

Some entertainers are self-taught. To get experience as an entertainer you could:

- take part in open-mic spots or talent competitions
- work at a holiday centre or theme park
- perform in local clubs - you may have to work without pay at first
- take part in street performance or fringe festivals

Direct Application

You can apply directly for jobs. The most important thing is to have a skill or talent that an audience will enjoy.

You do not need formal qualifications, although you may find it useful to have trained in music, dance or acting, perhaps from taking a performing arts course or graded exams.

Other Routes

You can develop your skills by doing a specialist course in a particular area of entertaining like comedy, puppetry or circus skills.

You can find details of courses from professional associations in your field of entertainment.

Skills and knowledge

You'll need:

- persistence and determination
- the ability to use your initiative
- to be flexible and open to change
- to enjoy working with other people
- excellent verbal communication skills
- the ability to understand people's reactions
- knowledge of media production and communication
- the ability to work well with others
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

You'll need to:

- pass enhanced background checks as you may work with children and vulnerable adults

Day-to-day tasks

In this role you would:

- perform in front of a live audience
- create and rehearse new material
- promote your act
- attend auditions
- maintain equipment, costumes and props
- deal with your finances and administration

Working environment

You could work in a theatre, at a social club, in the community, on a cruise ship, in a hotel or at a client's home.

Your working environment may be outdoors some of the time and you may spend nights away from home.

Career progression

You could move into related roles like entertainment agent, talent spotter, venue management, or TV or radio presenting.

This Week at Woodlands



Be your best!

Be brave.

Engage positively.

Sensible and safe behaviours at all times.

Take responsibility

- **Callum Powell was extremely brave and worked hard to learn how to perform a backwards somersault during his P.E lesson today. – Fantastic effort Callum – Well done!**
- **Bobby had a fantastic art lesson with Alison - fully engaged for whole hour – Brilliant positive engagement Bobby, well done!**
- **Great first week for Oscar Roberts. – Super Star Oscar!**
- **Acorns 2 had a successful day meeting their new classmates and finding things in common – Acorns 2 you are the B E S T!**
- **Acorns 1 had a brilliant afternoon at forest school demonstrating some excellent team works skill as a whole group - Well done Acorns 1 – Outstanding engagement!**
- **Bobby had a successful morning and completed his work – Superstar Bobby well done!**
- **Harrison attended Life Shed and was successful – Brilliant Harrison Well done!**
- **Year 11, Scott and Millie worked really hard for all their Maths lesson – Great work Scott and Millie, Well done!**
- **Olly Newbury engaged positively with all his learning – Fantastic Work Olly Well done!**



Headteacher Awards

- **Acorns 2 - Michael H for Keeping calm and being brave while helping staff**
- **Acorns 1 – Noah Hu – super engagement in his new class- well done Noah!**
- **Acorns 2 – Olly N - Keeping calm and being brave while helping staff**
- **Acorns 1 – Noah Hu for amazing maths work**

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Or

Take a look at our website!

www.woodlands.school

Or

**Join the conversation - We love hearing from you!
Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions
with us.**

rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk

Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk

- **If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.**
- **Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT



While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app *could* potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES



According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING



TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS



With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables *anyone* to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION



Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN



With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING



Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS



If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING



If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS



If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>