

Welcome to the 2025 Autumn Term Newsletter. It has been a busy term with lots going on. We started the term by welcoming 17 new pupils to school. They have settled in well, contributing to school life, not only by working hard in lessons but also by contributing to other activities such as the pupil council, school choir and performances. One new pupil said “I love it at Woodlands because everyone is so nice to me”.

We have been continuing with ‘Project Environment’; updating and improving the classrooms and corridors of the school to be low stimulation, calming environments to help children regulate and learn. This is an ongoing improvement project, funded by the Raleigh Education Trust to provide the best possible facilities for our children.



New Ground Celebration at Nottingham Contemporary

Pupils in Beech class and pupils from across Raleigh Education met at Nottingham Contemporary in the Autumn Term for a dual celebration marking the final stage of our two-year New Ground creative learning partnership!

Pupils took part in co-planned artist-led activities, observed photographs and videos, and contributed through thoughtful reflections on their creative journeys in the project. The space was full of curiosity, expression and collaboration, a powerful reminder of how creativity enables our pupils to communicate, connect and thrive. Quiet spaces, sensory adjustments and responsive activities ensured every pupil could take part meaningfully.

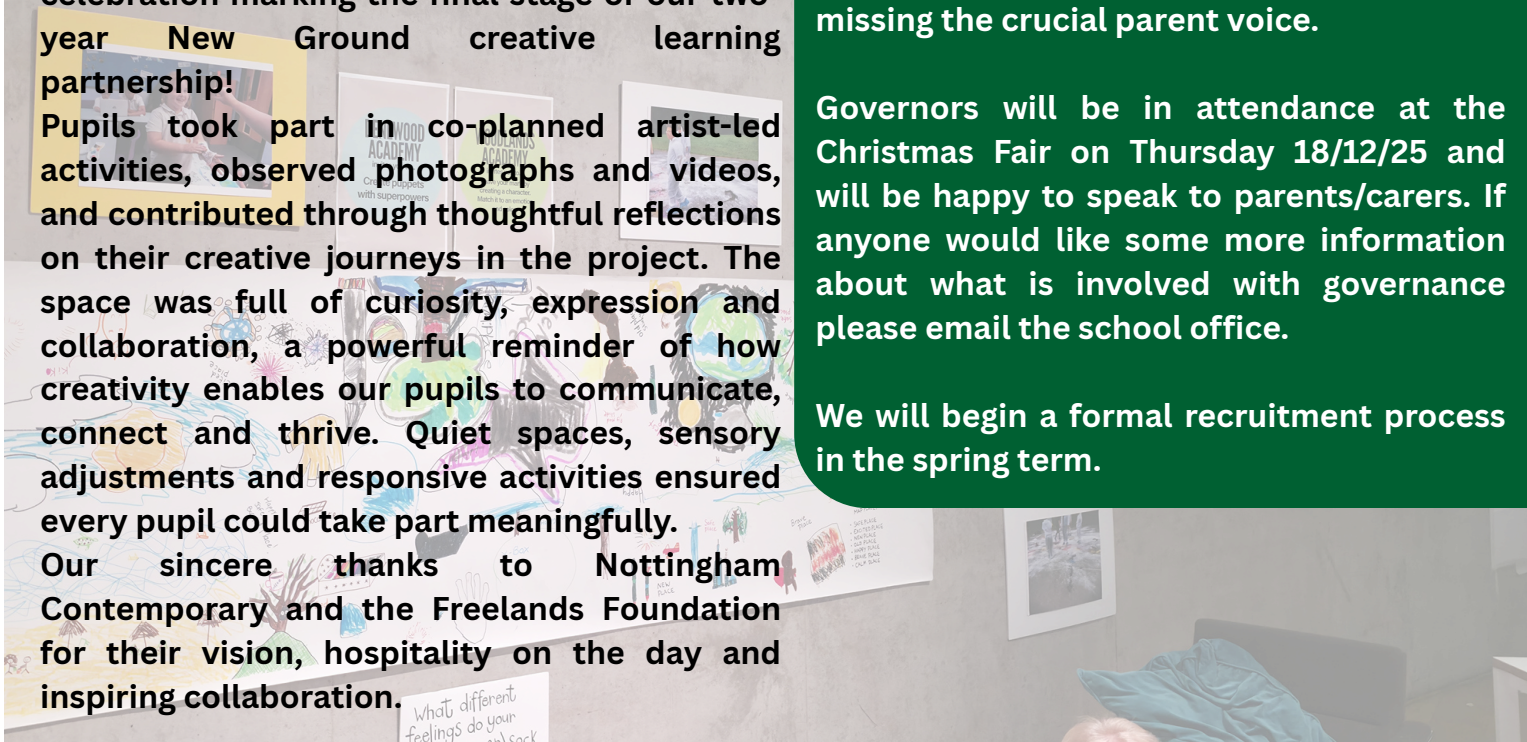
Our sincere thanks to Nottingham Contemporary and the Freelands Foundation for their vision, hospitality on the day and inspiring collaboration.

Message from the Governors

We are looking to recruit a parent governor/governors. The governing body plays an important role in school improvement, ensuring standards remain high and advising on decisions. The governing body has grown and established itself over the last few years but we are still missing the crucial parent voice.

Governors will be in attendance at the Christmas Fair on Thursday 18/12/25 and will be happy to speak to parents/carers. If anyone would like some more information about what is involved with governance please email the school office.

We will begin a formal recruitment process in the spring term.





International School Award 2025–28

Woodlands Academy has been awarded the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British Council's work with schools so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need for life work in today's world.

Woodlands' international work includes Partnering with schools in Poland, India and Sri Lanka allowing pupils to communicate and share ideas, explaining about their country and culture, organizing international celebration days and engaging in international visits e.g. to Egypt and Poland.

In October we were visited by 4 delegates from our partnered Egyptian school to discuss SEND support and inclusion. The pupil council welcomed them with afternoon tea, including scones baked by Beech class.



Christmas In The City



14 children from the Woodlands Pupil Choir performed at St Mary's Church in the Lace Market as part of the Christmas in the City concert arranged by the Nottingham Music Hub. The concert was watched by a full house of performers and concert goers and our children made up part of a large children's choir with members from schools across the city. Our children used Makaton signs as well as singing .

All the children involved gained a hugely positive experience of performing alongside their peers from across the city in one of Nottingham's most beautiful churches and, in front Parents and carers, some of whom got to see their children doing something they'd never seen them do before and perhaps didn't think they would be able to do. The performance will be repeated the following week to a large group of parents and carers and the rest of the school as a major part of the Woodlands Christmas Show



The Christmas show was a massive success and the best one yet!

Pupils from all pathways contributed with many of our young people performing to an audience for the first time. The choir opened proceedings by showcasing the songs sung at Christmas in the City and closed the show with a medley of singalong Christmas favorites. We also had dram performances of The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe, Phillip Pullman's Clockwork and a retelling of the Nativity in pictures. There was bell ringing and the previous week, yellow pathway pupils performed 'Stick Man'. We are very proud of all our children's efforts and contributions.

OFFSITE VISITS



This term, our pupils have embarked on an array of exciting offsite visits, each offering unique learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom. As part of our life skills program, students enjoyed educational trips to local supermarkets, where they learned about budgeting, comparing prices, making purchases and the importance of healthy eating choices. Yellow pathway children have been practicing road safety and visiting local parks to support community inclusion. In a captivating journey through history, students explored Nottingham Castle and the City of Caves, delving into the rich stories of our past as part of the Humanities curriculum. Meanwhile, the wonders of the universe unfolded at the National Space Center, where budding scientists were inspired by interactive exhibits and hands-on activities that sparked their curiosity about space exploration. These offsite visits have enriched our pupils' learning experiences, igniting their imaginations and broadening their horizons.



Sycamore and Willow have attended weekly swimming lessons during autumn term 1 and Birch and Beech class went during autumn term 2 . The other children will have opportunities throughout the year. The children have been developing their water confidence and their swimming strokes. The pupils are benefiting enormously from these lessons. The progress being made is great to see and this is a key life skill.