

News

Edition: 8
14 February 2020



Dear Parents/Carers - On Monday 24 February you will receive an invite to our next parents' evening. Please remind yourself of the date – Wednesday 25 March 4.30 – 7.00 pm. Prior to our parents evening you will receive a timely progress update which will help you see the progress your child has made relating to their learning, attendance and wider engagement



CEO Update

Robin Bush

both in and out of school/college. Hopefully this information will enable you to improve the dialogue you will have with both class teacher and associated support staff. We look forward to seeing you there.



Headlines

Stuart Jamieson

Dear Parents/Carers - We are delighted to see that 23 of our students have achieved 100% attendance at the end of this first Spring half term, so given that this term has produced a lot of challenges the quality of resilience has shone through beyond the various viruses and adverse weather conditions. Please note the updated advice relating to the Coronavirus monitoring.

When we return on Monday 24 February we look forward to launching our *Empathy Week*. This will provide a great opportunity for our young people to consider the perspectives of others. We will also be sharing the plans for our neurodiversity celebration week of 16-20 March. This will enable every one of our students to express their successes and feelings through relating to overcoming significant daily challenges through their skills and talents. On this Valentine's Day, I am reminded of the words of Helen Keller "the best and most beautiful things in this world can't be seen or even heard but must be felt with the heart".



The school and college is now registered with **easyfundraising**, so you can raise **FREE** donations for us when you do your everyday online shopping.

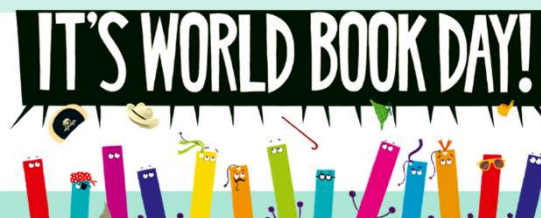
All you have to do is find the retailer you want to shop with on the easyfundraising website or App, shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no extra cost to you! This means you can support us when you do your grocery shopping, book holidays or days out, order takeaways, buy things for the kids, or even when you renew your insurance and energy policies. It's easy and completely FREE. Just visit our easyfundraising page at [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wargravehouse](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wargravehouse) and click "Support this cause". ▶ Karen Tarbuck

New Head of Finance & Business Resources

Gary van Oss



I am really pleased to introduce myself to you as the new Head of Finance & Business Resources at Wargrave House School & College. I am very much enjoying my time here so far. By way of introduction I am originally from Congleton and now live near Knutsford. I have 15 years prior experience as a business manager in schools including the special education sector. Given that I am a Newcastle United supporter I believe I have the right qualities to show tenacity and a belief in helping improve things for all our school/college stakeholders.



Attendance

We would like to say thank you to our students and their families who consistently work towards achieving high attendance and punctuality. Getting these good habits established is supporting the growth of an important life skill for our young people. So, as this half term comes to a close, let's congratulate some of our students for their exceptionally high attendance record. Congratulations to...

Jacob, Marcus, Caprice, James, Alex, El-Jay, Archie, Reuben, Sean, Luke, Max, Peter, Greg, Tarran, Khovan, Yanick, Owen, Harry, Brandon, Benji, Dylan, Joe and Will. Happy holiday everyone and stay safe until we see you all again on the 24th Feb. ► [Michelle Heneghan](#)

Coronavirus Monitoring



Encouraging good hygiene

As always, if you have symptoms of a cold or flu, then there are measures you can take to stop germs:

- always carry tissues with you and use them to catch your cough or sneeze. Then bin the tissue, and wash your hands, or use a sanitiser gel
- wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after using public transport. Use a sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- avoid close contact with people who are unwell

For latest information and updates on Coronavirus visit gov.uk/coronavirus



Storyteller Visit

Alec Williams used to work in public libraries across the North of England, and he sometimes read stories to children

when they visited the local library. He left libraries in 1999, and now spends all his time storytelling, training and speaking. He's a frequent visitor to both primary and secondary schools, telling stories, reading poems, and enthusing about books, to help create young people who want to read for pleasure. He's also visited many playgroups and nurseries, because it's never too soon to start with stories and rhymes! Many of his stories are retold from memory – folk tales, myths, legends – but he also reads 'tasters' of modern fiction for young people, perhaps an exciting opening, to encourage students to read on! He loves stories that make you laugh, stories that make you shiver, and maybe stories that'll make you think. Alec is also a great poetry fan, and runs lively poetry sessions, with a lot of joining in, and laughter. Alec lives in West Yorkshire, in an old farmhouse on top of a hill, but he's happy to travel anywhere, to visit schools and libraries. He's visited over thirty countries around the world, from Argentina to Korea, and from Norway to Malaysia – including lively places like Iraq on the way! When he comes to Wargrave House on **Friday 1st May**, he'll be telling stories to several groups of students, perhaps with the odd poem thrown in. Folk tales work with all ages, and he might also include a story with folded paper, or a 'drawing story', where he draws as he tells. Students could find out Why Dog lives with Man, the ingredients for Stone Soup, or just exactly what was The Clever Wish... Whatever they hear, there'll be a lot of humour, perhaps some joining-in, and plenty to talk about afterwards!

► [Robert Richardson](#)

Special Guest

On the 10th of February we had a visit from the Rev Gareth Banton whom we met at Christmas in St John's church, Earlestown. He wanted to keep in touch with our students and so popped in to say hello and find out a little more about us. As you can see from the lovely pic, the students were happy to share their learning. Following the visit, Rev Gareth said, 'What a special place Wargrave House, and LEAP is. I really enjoyed my visit. I was immediately struck by how much the teachers care about the pupils, and how much the pupils enjoy their time at school. It felt like visiting a big family! And it won't be long before we'll see Rev Gareth again, he is looking forward to visiting one of our Cosy Corner café mornings and of course coming along to our Easter celebration. Till then, we thank him for his time and look forward to developing further links at St John's.

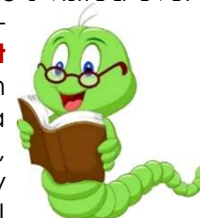
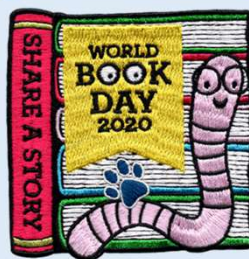


World Book Day

World Book Day was designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and is marked in over 100 countries around the globe. We share its ambition to celebrate stories and promote a love of reading. This year in the UK World Book Day will take place on **Thursday 5th March** and our theme is 'Mystery'. We aim to encourage communication, interaction and flexibility of thought through promoted engagement. Students can if they wish dress up in Mystery themed clothes or as any book character of their choice. There is no cost to this event. ► [Joan Beddows](#)

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

5 MARCH 2020



Forest Schools

This year's theme of Children's Mental Health week was 'Find Your Brave'. The students who are currently accessing Forest Schools sessions decided to take up the challenge. As a group we talked about trying something new, being brave and appropriate risk taking.

The group loved the challenge and all made individual choices to 'Find their Brave'. I was super proud of them all! Taking appropriate risks engage and challenge our young people as well as supporting their growth, learning and development of flexibility. Just going a little bit outside of their comfort zones can be extremely challenging but, being outdoors in a natural environment where exploration and investigation can take place through child-led learning often leads to appropriate risk taking occurring naturally. Risk taking is a huge part of the Forest Schools ethos and when done appropriately has numerous benefits. During our sessions, I have observed development of physical skills, dexterity, resilience and confidence. Life throws lots of challenges at our students but, through the provision of opportunities to 'find their brave' we will build on our amazing young people's confidence and support them to achieve success. ► Nic Brown



Daisy showed she wasn't scared!

Sean reached for the skies!

Peter's first tree climb!

Byron the explorer!

Not all classrooms have four walls!

Greg found balance in nature!



On Friday 7th February 2020 Wargrave House School celebrated the 20th birthday of the NSPCC's number day raising £43.26. Learners explored the NSPCC looking into who the charity represents, how they can help parents and how they can support children through the dedicated helpline; childline. Learners were also able to recap their previous work with the 'Stay Safe Programme' where learners explored safe and unsafe relationships.

During number day, learners and staff shared their favourite numbers and why and learners in RISE, BASE and Lakeside took part in workshops developed by NatWest's Moneysense receiving certificates. **In RISE**, learners were exploring how to set up their own smoothie business. Learners were put into groups, given a budget and a price list. Learners worked together to select a name for their business, select smoothies they would sell, identified needs and wants for their shop and created a costing plan and profit plan. Ianis in RISE 2 said that his favourite number was an amazing '1 million' and Max J in RISE 3 said 'I liked counting all of the money and spending it at the shop'. **In BASE**, learners were exploring how to organise a party for a peer, based on their interests. Learners were put into groups, given a budget and a price list. Learners worked together to select whose party they would plan, how many people would be invited and who could get the best value for money. In BASE 3 Greg said that he likes the 'number 1', Alicia said that she liked how they 'used numbers to solve problems' and Tarran liked how he 'worked with friends to plan a party'. **In Lakeside**, learners were exploring how to identify fraud. Learners were given a scenario and range of evidence. Learners worked together to solve the mystery by identifying key information. Owen in Lakeside 1 said that he 'enjoyed unpicking all of the evidence to solve the crime'. ► Yvette Carr



New Students

Since September, we have welcomed 8 new students to the school. As part of their admission, Andrea Smethurst (SENCO) and I have facilitated a 'New Student Meeting' for the students and their families to see how their child/ young person has settled into the school as well as offered support where needed. The feedback received from parents has been positive! Parents have stated that, 'their child is less anxious and greets their PA and driver with a smile and comes to school in the same manner', 'overall, Wargrave seems to be the right place', their child is, 'settled, happy and engaged', 'my child has settled in quickly and it's a credit to all the staff at Wargrave'. We are delighted with this feedback and thrilled to have welcomed the students to our Wargrave family. We look forward to them continuing their journey with us. ► [Natalie Molyneux , Family Liaison Officer](#)

Student Bursary



A reminder for our Lakeside and LEAP students, you can still apply for the Vulnerable or Discretionary Bursary. Please contact me in school on 01925 224899 or via email on nataliemolyneux@wargravehouse.com for an application form and I will be more than happy to assist in helping you to apply. If you already have an application form and need any help with completion, then please do not hesitate to contact me.



Dates to Remember

Oral Hygiene Programme Coffee Morning

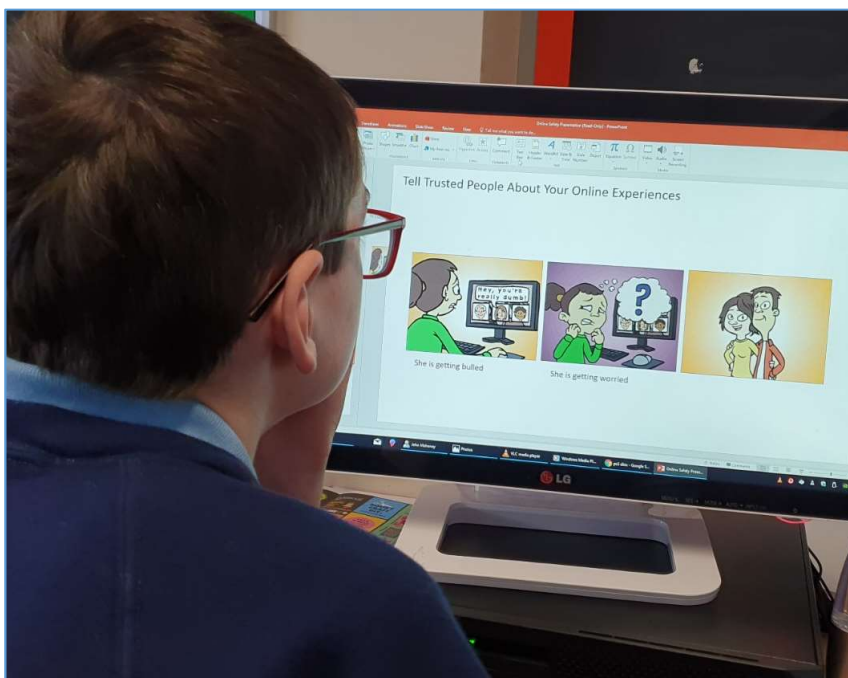
Friday 20th March
10am-11.30am

Forest Schools Workshop

Friday 3rd July
10am-12noon

Lakeside Tea Party

Friday 6th March
10am-12noon



E-Safety Focus



Safer
Internet
Day

This term, students have been looking at another area of e-safety. John's class, BASE 2 looked at various devices used to connect to the internet, the issues around too much technology-time, and what to do if you see or hear something online which makes you feel sad, uncomfortable or worried. This week saw 'Safer Internet Day' on Tuesday 11th February. You may have seen adverts on television regarding the nationwide concern over the amount of 'screen time' young people have. Studies show that this can link to depression, social exclusion and a feeling of isolation amongst an increasing number of youngsters. Children can feel inferior, or under pressure to emulate what they see online. ► [Dave Whittaker](#)

Post-16 Educational Experience Survey

The Centre for Research in Autism and Education and Ambitious about Autism are looking for participants to take part in an online survey about the post-16 educational experiences of young people and/or their families. Please see below if you are interested in taking part.

Why is this research important?

In 2011, Ambitious about Autism published a report calling for a clear legal right to educational support up to the age of 25 for young disabled people. Whilst this was subsequently achieved through the Children and Families Act 2014, the impact of this on young autistic people and their families has not been investigated. The aim of the current research is to understand and evaluate the impact of the Act – what works well and what could be done better.

Who can take part?

- Young autistic people (between the ages of 16 and 25)
- Parents/carers of young autistic people

How do you take part?

To take part/find out more, visit <https://bit.ly/31u3rEk>

Employability Update

There's a lot happening on the employability and careers front and we are all working hard to achieve the coveted Quality in Careers Standard. We are using a piece of software known as the 'SEND Compass Tool' which helps us to evaluate our careers activity against the eight benchmarks of best practice – known as the Gatsby Benchmarks.

The Albert Dock Charitable Foundation will be showcasing the Albert Dock as a resource for leisure, recreation, education and employment. LEAP and college students will take part in an educational tour of The Albert Dock in March to hear about training/career opportunities as well as the Dock's heritage and history.

Impartial careers advice tutorials by our Careers Connect Advisor, Ann Kerry, students will take place with Year 10-14 next half term. This will enable us to listen to their 'voice' and support them when making future educational/employment choices. Ann will also be available at our parents' consultation evening. Main school assemblies for the next half term will all have an employability focus to support students in recognising their aspirations, take part in National Careers Week and learn more about the 'world of work'.

Watch this space for an update on the excellent initiatives that staff and students are involved in throughout the organisation.

► Steve Hogarth

Community Project

Lakeside students have settled into their supporting role for LEAP on the Lyme and Wood/Enovert community project. They have braved the wind and rain to move bracken to create a shelter for the beehives and soften the fence line. We will also be helping with small construction projects on the site.




Staff and post 16 students continue to work with Earlestown Cricket Club to support the sensory garden and market garden projects. To finance the materials that our students need we have a variety of healthy cooking/living books (donated by Marks and Spencer) that are on sale at our main reception for a nominal fee.




Lakeside students are working hard to keep the local community tidy and free from litter. Recycling plays a big part in this initiative and local residents are certainly reaping the benefits.





COURTNEY & OWEN'S

Lakeside Tea Party



All parents and friends of Wargrave House School are invited to LEAP College on **Friday 6th March, 10am** • **£2 ENTRY**

*** RSVP required to ***

tarathomas@wargravehouse.com

Post-16 Supported Internships

Post 16 are in the process of developing a Supported Internship Programme.

What is the supported internship programme going to look like in the Post 16 provision?

- Structured study programme based in industry: 3 days in industry, 2 days in education
- For young people aged 16-24 with special educational needs and disabilities
- Interns supported by a full time job coach
- Supporting young people to move on to paid employment at the end of their internship

What will our future interns get from their placements?

- Life skills
- Social skills
- Work experience
- Transferable skills

What is our Purpose?

For student's to be:

- Independent
- Confident
- Knowledgeable
- Develop skills
- To move on from college, have a meaningful life and an opportunity to work.

If you have any questions or to discuss becoming a host employer please contact:

julietdoherty@wargravehouse.com



Residential Life

Residential students have been learning and experiencing different activities. Take a look at some of our experiences below.

Independent Living Skills



Washing the dishes

Using the microwave



Using public transport



Rotary Club Christmas Float



We were really pleased to be asked again this year to take part in the Rotary Club Christmas Float collections. On two nights in the lead up to Christmas, two students, Will Owen-Harrison and Courtney Shawcross were joined by staff members Louise Yates, Sam Lowe, Chris Linaker, Juliet Doherty, Steve Hogarth, Jana Smith & Amy D Lorenzo pounding the local streets to raise money for a number of local charities – including ourselves! We were really grateful to receive a cheque for £200 from The Rotary Club at their recent presentation night. It really is a fantastic event for us to be involved in and we hope to be taking part again this year.



Bowling



Road safety



Leisure time



Crafts



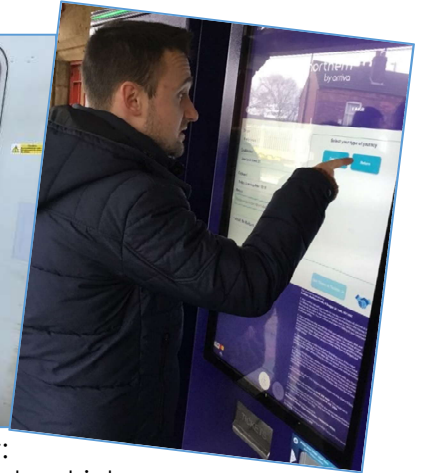
LAKE SIDE & LEAP

LEAP JD

Independent travel using public buses and train to Liverpool and Chester.



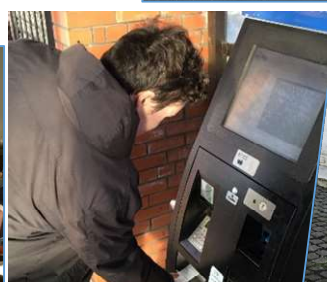
Owen coaching with Shireen helping RISE 3 on a Wednesday



Friends of Lime & Wood and Enovet: Students contributed to a time capsule which was planted in the foundations for the cabin they also put all their hand prints into the wet cement.



This week we celebrated Nicky's 21st At Pizza Express in Stockton Heath Warrington where students got to make their own pizzas.



We are thrilled to welcome Emily Newell back in LEAP - we are looking forward to lots of adventures together.