



# SCHOOL NEWS



## CEO Update

Robin Bush

**Dear Parents/Carers - I hope this week's newsletter finds you safe and well. Thank you for your responsiveness in communicating your ongoing needs through the various forms of communication you have received over the last few weeks.** On behalf of all the Trustees, Governors and staff at Wargrave House, our thoughts and best wishes are with you at this very demanding

time. Whilst we are unable to predict the timescales upon the enforced closure and reduction of our service, we will continue to keep you informed of all critical national developments impacting upon learning.

It was great to receive positive feedback from you relating to the progress reports delivered last week. Thanks also for your support in undertaking many of the home learning suggested activities. We will be delighted to receive any ongoing feedback, photographs and your ideas for longer term study.

Many of you that are due to have annual reviews will receive written communication from our SENCO Andrea Smethurst. I can fully assure you that our collective drive and professionalism of staff (both on and off-site) will provide you with a service which will be even stronger upon the eventual return to 'normality'.

It has been pleasing to see our staff being really creative in overcoming the immediate challenges on Monday evening, for example, we were able to host our full Governing Body meeting through video conferencing. I am well aware that staff are working hard to continue to provide the best possible Educational, Therapy and wider Care service for you all.

Finally we are still here for you as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch, in the meantime have a peaceful Easter, above all staying safe and well. [Best wishes, Robin.](#)

**Dear Parents/Carers - We recognise that this unprecedented event of COVID-19 has made us all acutely aware of respecting the social distancing, vigilance relating to hygiene and minimising contact and travel for only essential matters. We are continuing to follow the government guidelines providing an educational offer for families that require our provision.**



## Headlines

Stuart Jamieson

I appreciate the last two weeks will have been particularly demanding for you as parents/carers in creating new routines. We hope that the Survey that you were sent earlier this week has helped you consider your child's learning resources and wider support. Please do not hesitate to contact us ideally using the direct email address of your child's class staff. Our telephone answering service at school will accept messages throughout the school Easter holidays, these messages are automatically emailed to the corresponding member of staff. You can therefore be assured your message will be received and wherever possible dealt with.

We are aiming to retain our limited educational offer from Monday 20 April for those parents/carers who are currently utilising our service, you will be aware that our Residential Care setting remains closed until further notice. In spite of the restrictions, it has been wonderful to see a large number of our residential staff supporting a wide range of activities relating to students care and ongoing site hygiene matters. We have really valued the positive feedback that you as parents/carers have provided us with and it is essential that we continue to support each other compassionately.

[Best wishes for a positive Easter break, Stuart.](#)



Four ways we can stay well during this difficult time.

## Sleep and physical activity

Sleep may be difficult during the normal routine so when life has changed so much, as it has recently, maintaining a normal sleep pattern becomes a lot more important but even more of a challenge. If you need any support or advice to support your son or daughter regarding this please contact a member of the therapy team to discuss the issues over the phone or email. Resources can be shared via post and/or email. Physical activity as well as raising your mood and improving physical health also helps to maintain a good sleep pattern and gives your brain something to focus on. Exercise can be a positive coping strategy for these difficult times.

## Share your feelings

Now it is more important than ever for us to share our feelings with our friends, relatives or close family. Staff are also still at school and college to support you during this time even if your son/daughter is not currently attending. Most importantly please remember do not keep any worrying or upsetting feelings to yourself.

Nobody's perfect...

We all make mistakes. Show the same understanding and forgiveness to yourself as you would show to others.

## Ask for Help

Please see below additional useful resources to support your emotional health:

[Actionforhappiness.org](http://Actionforhappiness.org)

[Annafreud.org](http://Annafreud.org)

[Barnardos.org.uk](http://Barnardos.org.uk)

[Cwmt.org.uk](http://Cwmt.org.uk)

[Mind.org.uk](http://Mind.org.uk)

[Mentalhealth.org.uk](http://Mentalhealth.org.uk)

[Samaritans.org](http://Samaritans.org) (Telephone 116 123 at any time)

## RISE 1

RISE 1 students Ebube and Tamara followed themed days where they got creative and colourful. They made animal masks for the jungle theme and experimented with sand for the desert theme.



Students have been busy raising butterflies. Upon arrival, the insects have nutritious food they need to help them grow into healthy butterflies. They seemed inactive at first, but whilst watching them eat and grow they began to change very quickly. The first stage took 7-14 days as they were preparing to molt. After this, the caterpillars climbed to the top of the cup to attach themselves. After 3 days, the chrysalides were fully hardened. It was then safe to move them to the hatching habitat. After 14 days, the caterpillars emerged from the chrysalides. At first the butterflies' wings were soft and crumpled but they soon became stronger. The butterflies like to be fed sugar water and fruit. We set them free during the last week of term!



## BASE 3

This week Base 3 students have enjoyed activities associated with different themes. Thursday's theme was "Under the Sea". Here you can see Rhys holding up his aquarium collage, which he created.





# Family Liaison

Dear all - I hope you are all keeping well and safe. I know it is a difficult time for you all, just know that we are here on the other end of an email or phone if necessary to offer advice and support. Whilst you are at home with your children/young people, it may be worth looking into support/grants via funding for equipment in the home to help support you in home learning; these can be applied for online. Check out the 'Family Fund' for grants towards equipment in the home such as laptops/tablets for learning, sensory equipment, games and books etc:

[www.familyfund.org.uk/Pages/Category/using-your-grant](http://www.familyfund.org.uk/Pages/Category/using-your-grant)

The 'Caudwell Children' website where you can apply for support towards therapy equipment in the home:

[www.caudwellchildren.com](http://www.caudwellchildren.com)

Also the 'Steve Morgan Foundation' for sensory equipment and specialised software:

[stevemorganfoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/enable-funding](http://stevemorganfoundation.org.uk/how-to-apply/enable-funding)

Please do keep in touch during the Easter break and beyond and keep safe.

[nataliemolyneux@wargravehouse.com](mailto:nataliemolyneux@wargravehouse.com)



**Family Fund**  
Helping disabled children

**Steve Morgan**  
FOUNDATION

**CAUDWELL**  
**children**



## Positive Character Values

**Resilience:** John M faced challenges with all the changes to staff and routine on arrival on Monday. Worked with Lisa L and more positive interactions followed.



**Confidence:** Tamara made a positive return on Monday and continued to build on getting to know Nadine and Nic KB.

**Confidence:** Max L & Claire L showed positive interaction when Max returned on Monday, more relaxed and happy. On Tuesday, Max enjoyed spending time with Claire reading a story and looking at the illustrations together.

**Creativity:** Nikki B was bouncing through the week by supporting students in rebound therapy sessions.



**Creativity:** Rhys W showed independence and focus in a very 'mindful' way during his arts and crafts session. (Monica has pics).



**Kindness:** Peter took on a responsible role by stock checking the first aid kits throughout school with our first aider Nikki and replenishing the stock.

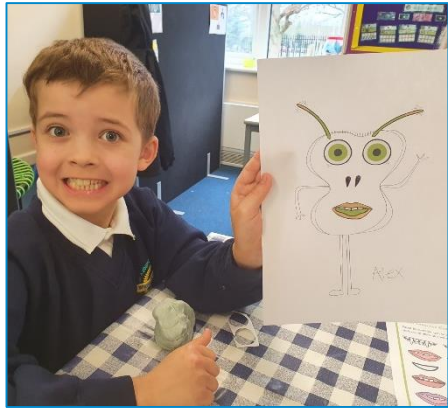
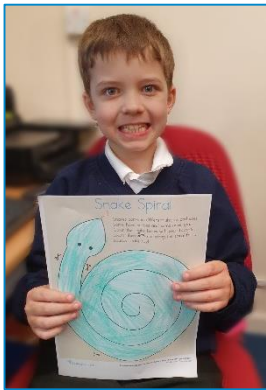
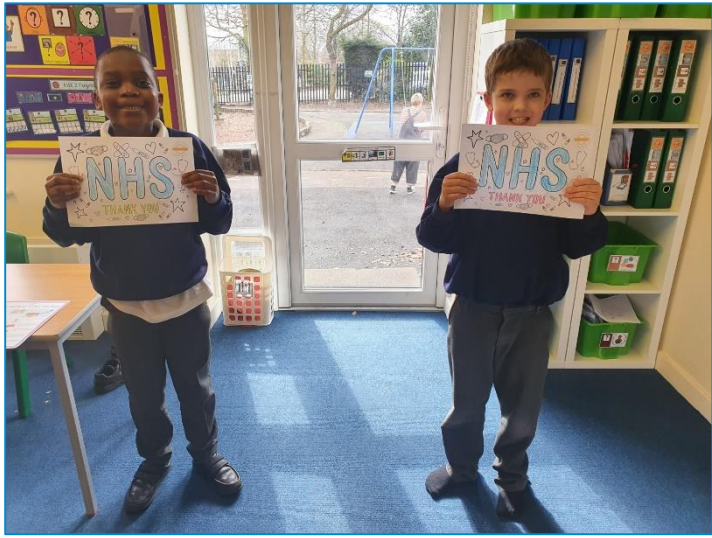
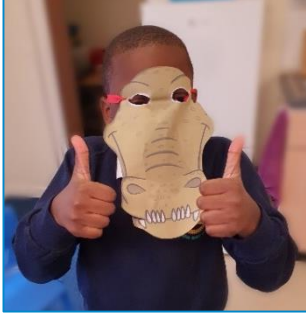
## Happy Retirement, Sue!

Everyone at Wargrave House would like to wish Sue a long and enjoyable retirement. Sue has been with us for 7 years as domestic assistant, working mainly in Lakeside House, where she has built up positive relationships with students and staff. Sue is a person who always has others in mind and wants to put a smile on people's faces. Even on her last day, Sue thought of others by bringing in cakes, such is the 'Sue' tradition. She will keep in touch and we look forward to seeing her at Wargrave events.



# RISE 2

In RISE 2, Alex and El-Jay have been following a different theme each day. They created masks and coloured in snakes on jungle day, made their own alien, space putty and rocket on space day and created farm pictures on farm day. They also released their butterflies on Thursday and watched them fly out of their habitat.



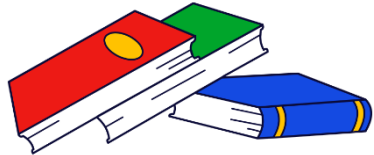
## Welcome Tamara!

RISE 1 have welcomed Tamara to Wargrave House School. Tamara has settled in really well, making new friends in her class, getting to know staff, being creative in lessons and enjoying her time in the playground.



## Reading Focus

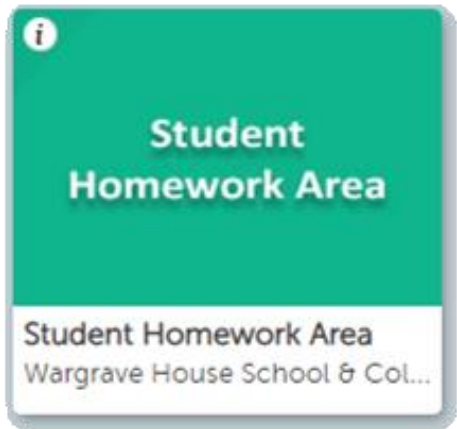
Parents/carers please be aware that you can register for tablet or computer friendly Free e-books for home reading on the OxfordOwl [www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading) - It is quick and easy to register. Those RISE students learning to read with phonics should focus on the Read Write Inc. books For those students that can read there are a range of other books available



## Online Learning

On line learning -Please remember that as well as the work packs sent home, students can access on line resources via the Student Homework area on RM Unify. Details of how to access this have been emailed to parents/carers and students should log in using their full email address and password.

► Richard Grimmer







# LAKEside & LEAP NEWS



## NATSPEC Awards 2020

**Award:** Partnership Working

**Project Title:** Post 16 and Friends of Lyme and Wood Community Project

LEAP students have been shortlisted for a Natspec Award in Partnership Working. Our entry will go forward to an independent panel chaired by Nigel Evans, former lead HMI for high needs. The panel will choose a winning entry for each award category. The original plan was to announce the winners at the Natspec National Conference in May. As that is no longer possible, this will be rescheduled for a time when everyone can come together again as a sector at the Natspec Principals Forum at Conference Aston in Birmingham on 8 October. It will be a great way to celebrate the remarkable work of specialist colleges and the staff and learners within them. We are proud to be one of the shortlisted entries.

### Emily's Rainbow

Emily N wanted to spread some happiness and hope to everyone during these uncertain times by drawing this rainbow outside the front door of school, with the words "Keep Smiling".



### Flying her Flag

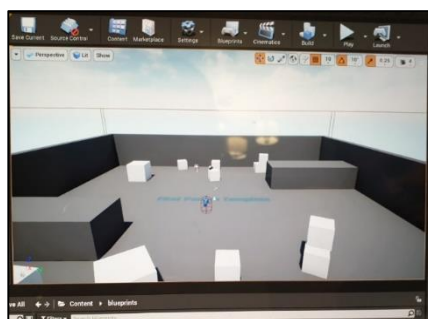
Emily has been keeping busy during the lockdown by searching through her home to find items that express her personality, and is expressing her right to celebrate her individuality by creating an incredible flag to celebrate and support a cause that is dear to her heart! Only trouble now is that she's got to put all of the items away again!



### Working from Home

Christian has been doing between 1-2 hours every day last week and this 1-1 tutoring on line with his brother, which has been working well. He has been doing multiplication subtraction and division with numbers over 1000. This week he started doing some simple programming using unreal engine following a 25 minute online demonstration. In light of the Art course he has been accepted for, we hope that he might have a project to show for his time off. He has also walked the dog every day and been cycling on nice days.

We are pleased to hear that Harry is cooking with his family, Owen is generalising his independent living skills into the home and has supported mum, Benji is home learning with family, Rory is settled at home and doing maths activities which he is enjoying.



If you would like any support regarding home learning, or if you would like to share any photos or stories about home learning or experiences, please send them to:

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