



School NEWS

Edition: 17
10 July 2020



Dear Parents & Carers



CEO Update

Robin Bush

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. Within this newsletter is a heartfelt goodbye from Jackie McCann and Michelle Heneghan who both retire at the end of this term after over 30 combined year's dedication to Wargrave House. Both our colleagues will be greatly missed by students

and staff, past and present and our wider Wargrave community. I have no doubt you will join with me in wishing them the longest, happiest and healthiest retirement and thanking them for everything they have done for our wonderful young people.

We are delighted to celebrate the success of LEAP College achieving national recognition through the National Association of Special Education Colleges (NATSPEC) it was wonderful to see all our staff and student body be part of the remote award ceremony in real time last Thursday. LEAP's success - the fifth and final category of the ceremony 'Community Partnership' working is an excellent acknowledgement of collaboration. Given that the panel had pre - defined the underpinning values in becoming a named winner included skills of adaptability in challenging and rapidly changing circumstances before and throughout COVID - 19 our collective team spirit has clearly shone through. Additionally the panel's decision of LEAP demonstrating sustainable impact and flexibility across the contextual setting with planned further scope for longer term positive outcomes is a very exciting indicator that our vision and alignment for employability and internships bodes very well for all existing and aspiring students who join our establishment, working both on and off site. Our particular thanks and congratulations go to Juliet Doherty, our Post 16 Head of Learning, for her leadership and enthusiasm which contributed to LEAP College gaining this award.

► Best wishes | Robin

Dear Parents & Carers



Headlines

Stuart Jamieson

We look forward to meeting with those parents, carers who are able to join us next Monday 13 July at 1.00 pm for a virtual coffee afternoon. This will be hosted by Claire Byrne and Natalie Molyneux who are doing a fantastic job of not only keeping in touch with all of our

families, they are also working exceptionally hard to support the transition arrangement for existing students on site and our new starters to school and college.

Thank you for your continued support as home educators and for continuing to send us wonderful examples of student's home working. Just a reminder that our school & college term will end on Thursday 23 July at 3.30 pm. We will be in touch with you throughout the summer period regarding any specific government updates relating to COVID 19. At the time of writing we are following the latest guidance and intend to welcome back all students in school and college on Thursday 3 September but please be assured that should anything change you will be promptly informed. All new students who will be starting with us for the first time in September are being invited to join us at some point during the week beginning Monday 17 August to help them acclimatise to their new surroundings. There will be no other summer school taking place during this week to enable us to also fully induct those Post 16 students who will be experiencing transition from BASE 3 to Lakeside.

On Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 July we will be hosting an end of year awards celebration for both students on site and those studying from home. You will receive further details regarding times next week.

Wishing you a happy weekend, I believe the sun is supposed to be shining!

► Best wishes | Stuart



RISE 1

We visited the dream sculpture as inspiration to think about our own dreams and goals. We also visited Risley Moss Nature reserve on a bug hunt, spotting dragon flies, ladybirds and butterflies. There was some fantastic work on telling the time with all students becoming time telling superstars and brilliant work on changing tenses in English. We created our own Bug Hotels using recycled materials and had fun celebrating students birthdays with cake and party games! ► **Mr Dickson**



BASE 2

Sean has enjoyed his daily literacy, numeracy and creative sessions. He particularly liked dressing up as Baymax. We think Sean is the one on the left. **Peter** has enjoyed making movie posters alongside his usual classwork and loved doing the daily



Ready to Learn exercises which were provided by the OT Team.



BASE 3

Tarran has completed lots of activities this week; numeracy, handwriting practice and his favourite – daily exercises. Here he is relaying a floor with Lego pieces.



This week, **Liam** took part in a virtual OT session with Laura and also made some Krispie Cakes.

RISE 3

▼ **Macauley** made a pizza. He and **Ritchie** have enjoyed making a volcano. **Max** couldn't wait to make his biscuits and ride the bike. **Archie** did some great numeracy work with his adding up and enjoyed playing with the marble-run. **Reuben** also made his own pizza and used counters in division by splitting them in half.



Family Liaison

Hello to our Parents and Carers - Don't forget our Virtual Coffee morning:



Monday 13th July, 1 pm

- Update on how Family Liaison can support you
- Giving parents/carers the opportunity to connect and be introduced to one another

If you would like to join us, please email clairebyrne@wargravehouse.com and an invite will be arranged via Microsoft Teams.

We look forward to seeing you!

Thanks and have a good weekend.

► **Natalie Molyneux**

Jackie McCann



Dear Parents,

Having given it a lot of thought I have decided to retire at the end of the summer term. Those of you who know me well will realise that this has not been an easy decision. My career at Wargrave has spanned 24 years and I can honestly say that it has been a pleasure and an honour to work in such a fantastic organisation, where throughout the years I have had the good fortune to develop my expertise in Autism and serve some incredible young people and their families. Being a part of their journeys from childhood to adulthood has taught me so much and also given me so many wonderful memories that I will treasure forever! It has also been an absolute privilege to work alongside some truly amazing and committed staff – some of who were here before even I started – testimony indeed to how wonderful a place Wargrave House is to work, learn and grow. I have seen many changes throughout my time at Wargrave, but none more so than this past couple of years. Exciting times lie ahead and I believe that Wargrave is going to achieve even more greatness under the leadership of Robin Bush our CEO, our innovative Senior Leadership team, and our talented and dedicated staff – rest assured your young people are in safe and caring hands! I feel that I have been extremely fortunate to have been supported to grow our in-house therapy service from a team of 2 SaLTs to the fantastic team of today totalling 4 SaLTs and a SaLT Assistant; 2 O.T.s, and an O.T Assistant; Music Therapy Services have increased to 2 days and now we are excited to be adding Rebound Therapy in ever growing proportions, to our therapy repertoire. Whilst my post is being recruited, the highly competent Michele Davies (Specialist SaLT), will be overseeing the smooth running of the Therapy department in an interim Head of Therapy role, so it will be 'business as usual'© It's hard to pinpoint the things that I've enjoyed the most (there's been so many!), but highlights for me have to include all of the fantastic Pantos and productions that I've been lucky enough to have been involved in – the talent for performing that so many of our young people have never ceases to amaze and delight me! Also, the annual Therapy Fundays – always tremendous fun and hugely satisfying to see all staff and students sharing a themed day of sheer laughter and enjoyment!

I could not finish this without saying some heartfelt 'thank yous'....

To the **Therapy Team** for their total commitment and dedicated service to me, the wider staff team and especially our young people. To our **Education staff** who do such a fantastic job of teaching our students – in the ways that they learn best. To our wonderful **SENSE team** for their unfailing support for our students health and welfare, and for the invaluable support that they provide for our parents. To our caring **Residential Team** for providing a nurturing home from home environment, whilst supporting life skills development. To our amazing **support services staff** who feed us, keep our buildings safe and beautifully clean and cared for; our brilliant **IT team** for their technical support and wizardry; and our brilliant **finance and administration staff** – all of whom do a tremendous job behind the scenes – all an integral part of our Wargrave family. To our **Senior Leadership Team** for their vision, drive and committed service to all. To the **Trustees** and our **Governors**, for their support for the development of the Therapy Department as well as giving so freely of their time and volunteering their services to the school and college as a whole. And finally..... A HUGE thank you to YOU, our **parents** who do the most fantastic job of all – and for trusting us with your precious young people, who have so enriched our lives and taught me personally so much over the years. I will miss you all, but I have a lifetime of memories that I will treasure forever – thank you for being a part of my journey!

A very fond farewell... Jackie

Michelle Heneghan



Dear all,

I wanted to take this opportunity to let you all know that I am leaving Wargrave this summer. I am looking forward to retirement and so would like to say a few thank yous. Firstly, to all our parents out there, thanks for granting me the privilege of taking care of your sons and daughters over the years. To all the students who have known me, I say thanks also for the times you have spent with me, particularly on our annual Residential trips, these times will now become long lasting memories for me. Finally, I wish everyone, families, students and staff all the very best for the new academic year and the many more that will follow.

Michelle Heneghan.



Home & College NEWS



CEO Update

Robin



Headlines

Stuart



Post-16

Juliet

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Dear Post 16 Students, Parents and Carers

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. The staff in Post 16 are very aware that the transition process has unfortunately been unable to take place and this has without doubt caused some anxieties for you all. Please be assured every young adult in Lakeside and Leap will be supported to access the college curriculums in a very creative and caring manner with an element of just right challenge in September 2020. In order to support new students attending Lakeside and Leap, Michele Davies and I are offering to be on site on 19th and 20th August to welcome you all and answer any questions you may have. More details will be shared in the newsletter and via email/letters in the following week. In the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me or your class teams if you have any questions. I am very pleased to see so many of you back in post 16 and doing so very well. It has also been great to see and hear those of you working from home via the MS Teams virtual meetings that have taken place. I am very proud to work with such fabulous young adults and outstanding staff, and I was thrilled to be able to share with you all, on Facebook, the Natspec 'Partnership Working' award that the Post 16 students and staff won on Thursday 2.7.20. This is a tremendous achievement and personifies the level of collaboration the students have with our local businesses and community partners. WELL DONE to all in Post 16! Take care and best wishes.

► **Juliet and all the staff in Post 16.**

Lakeside & LEAP

Dear Parents/Carers of students transitioning to Lakeside or Leap in September 2020. Juliet Doherty and Michele Davies would like to invite you and your sons/daughters to do a transition visit on either the 19th or 20th of August. The purpose of this visit is to discuss the curriculum in both provisions and have a tour of the classrooms and facilities in order to better prepare our new starters for their next steps to college. We will be sending you a letter/email over the next week giving you more information and asking for your interest, we will get back to you as soon as possible with confirmed times and date. Any questions please email: julietdoherty@wargravehouse.com and/or micheledavies@wargravehouse.com
We look forward to welcoming you to Post 16.



Courtney & Owen achieved their Level 1 in Event Planning

◀▼“**Courtney and I** have completed our Open Award Level 1 Event Planning unit this week. Towards the award Courtney and I have organized four coffee mornings to raise money for Macmillian, Save the Children, Teardrops and our end of year event that has now been postponed due to COVID19. We would like to thank all the people who have helped by donating and supporting the events which have provided evidence for our portfolio”. ▶ **Owen Metcalfe**



▼ **Dylan** returned to college last week. He enjoyed his first day back participating in lots of physical activities. Well done Dylan! **Ruby** has been keeping herself busy. She has been enjoying some time on the bike and helping in the garden. **Sancha** has really enjoyed be back. Staff helped her to make some lovely cupcakes.

▼ **Ben** celebrating his 19th birthday. Sharing his birthday cake and doughnuts with all of his friends from a social distance. Everybody came outside to sing happy birthday to Ben and to top it off our head of education Stuart Jamieson joined us and played happy birthday to Ben on his trumpet!! Ben had a fantastic day!!



Lakeside & LEAP

Brandon, Owen and **Courtney** took part in a Teams meeting with Khovan and his mum. They discussed the work that college students do and the fun that they have eating out in the community, making their own lunches, going to the gym, doing martial arts and getting involved in work placements. Oh and the fact that students don't have to wear school uniform! I'm sure that Khovan and the other students can't wait to join the post-16 department. Photo to follow.



Brandon shares a joke with Khovan on a Teams meeting and is also already planning the training for the football team.

Brandon is busy organising a five a side football team for post-16. He has the team sorted and has informed Phil Adams that he is going to be the regular coach, when he realised that our budget wouldn't stretch to a professional coach. Whilst the team will be training and adhering to social distancing in September, it is hoped that they will start playing other local colleges as soon as it is safe to do so. Brandon is busy designing the kit and actively looking for a sponsor. If you know anybody or a local business that would be willing to sponsor this energetic and formidable team, then please contact Steve Hogarth at the college.

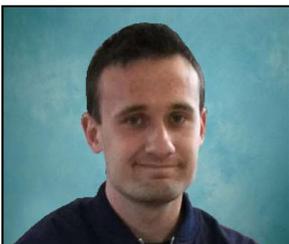
Ethan has been continuing with his grand designs gardening project and continues to make great progress whilst at home with his horticulture.

Wargrave's very first supported internship

Leap College is proud to announce that Will is going to begin our very first Supported Internship at Leap College in September 2020. Will has demonstrated great potential during his time with us as a student and we are proud that he has put the college on the map with this fantastic achievement. Will is going to be supported by a job coach who will provide this guidance in a very different way than a TSA would support a student. The job coach merely liaises between Wargrave and Will, to ensure that he is provided with the most appropriate level of work to develop his employability skills and resilience.

Will is going to be working in our Estates Department; sometimes as part of a team project and on other occasions on his own initiatives. He will be travelling to work on site three days per week by public transport and continuing with his college based education for the other two. This will give Will the opportunity to work 3 days on site with a dedicated job coach whose role differs significantly from a TSA. It empowers students to gain the knowledge, skills, understanding and most importantly the resilience to achieve (wherever possible) work-related post-college destinations.

This is an exciting time for both Will and Leap, with the Internship being funded by the DWP and St Helen's LA. The next phase is to recruit the job coach. Will is going to play a major part in the selection process as it is important that he gets the best support and guidance. We wish Will all the best for continuing his journey into work as one of our employees. Watch this space for updates!



William Owen-Harrison

Transition destination:

Supported Internship with Wargrave school and LEAP college as a maintenance operator

"I am looking forward to learning new skills in maintenance, meeting new people, making new friends and meeting my job coach. I am also looking forward to continuing my community day as well as learning new skills in my job".



Lakeside & LEAP



Christian Koch

Transition destination:

TMP college studying Digital Arts

"I am looking forward to going to TMP college because I am able to continue to develop my English and maths skills. I am also excited to study digital arts and filming. LEAP college has helped me with my reading and writing, socialising with my peer and behaving appropriately in the community. I am very thankful for the staff at LEAP college helping me to learn new skills, make new friends and manage my OCD. A big thank you to all the staff who has supported me with my OCD and preparation to adulthood and employment".



Rory Heffernan

Transition destination:

Bright Futures

Rory has continued to work from home and has been working on his maths, English and independent living skills. Rory has also been making simple meals, accessing the community for walks, painting and gardening etc... This has all helped to develop Rory's skills even further. We would like to wish Rory good luck for the future at Bright Futures and we send our best wishes!

Students Nominated for End of Year Awards

The awards are the following:

Rotary Club - Young Achiever Award

Citizenship Award

Governor Enrichment Award

LEAP College Preparation for Adulthood Award

Keep your eyes peeled for the next newsletter which will announce the winners!!

A big congratulations to LEAP for winning at the Inaugural Natspec Awards

Wargrave House LEAP College were delighted and honoured to win the 'Partnership Working Award' at the inaugural Natspec Awards, which took place virtually on Thursday 2nd July 2020. The winning project 'Post-16 and Enover/Friends of Lyme & Wood Community' was a collaboration between the college a local employer Enover and community group (FoLW) to provide a range of work experience opportunities, including setting up a community allotment and maintaining the environment on site by collaboratively working with Enover staff and following their instructions.

A host of leading-16 providers that teach students with special educational needs and disabilities were recognised for excellence in the sector at the awards of specialist education Natspec.

There were over 50 entries to the five categories, which included the partnership working award and innovative use of technology. Chair of the judging panel, former Her Majesty's inspector for FE and skills Nigel Evans, said it was a "privilege" to judge the awards, as the standard of the submissions was "very high and demonstrates the innovation, expertise and creativity within the specialist further education sector".

Head of Post 16 Learning at Wargrave House LEAP College, Juliet Doherty said "I am very proud of the students in Post 16 and their positive attitude to working with a range of different employers and community groups. Winning this award is a huge achievement which celebrates the success of the students collaboration with our supportive employers such as Enover and Mercure Hotel and community groups such as Friends of Lyme & Wood and Earlestown Cricket Club."



Football Team Sponsorship



Dear parents, employers and community partners

Post-16 students are setting up a football team that they are hoping, social distancing allowing, will start training in September 2020.

This is a call for help and support from you, we are looking for SPONSORSHIP to support the purchase of the football team kit.

The post-16 students want to build a team to play against other 16-25 Specialist Provisions around the North West.

If you can help with a SPONSORSHIP please email philipadams@wargravehouse.com or telephone 01925 224899

