

School News



19 Oct. 2020
2020/21 - No.2



DEAR PARENTS & CARERS



CEO UPDATE

Robin Bush

As we approach our second half term, please ensure that if there is a change to your family circumstances regarding COVID 19 you liaise directly with class staff and where necessary our health care lead Robert Richardson. We will continue to ensure our risk assessments are fully compliant throughout our whole organisation. Ahead of our Harvest Festival this year, you will receive a letter from Richard Grimmer, our Deputy Head, inviting you to make a food donation as part of our outreach to the local community. Gaynor Singleton, TSA, will be working with Richard to ensure that your kindness is distributed effectively so all your contributions will be most gratefully received. We were delighted to see that the fantastic work of Danielle Bettle and our student Eco Team being promoted in last week's local newspaper, the St Helens Star, highlighting our continued commitment to excellence in environmental action and learning. I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable October half term. ► **Best wishes, Robin.**

DEAR PARENTS & CARERS

Thank you for all your good wishes and kindness following my return last week. Like so many people at this time I am indebted to the skill and dedication of our NHS staff having undertaken emergency surgery on my right eye. I am delighted to be back at Wargrave House, our newsletter is testimony to the richness of opportunities for all our young people provided by a very committed staff body. No doubt you are all looking forward to our half term break which begins next Friday, 23 October with our normal finish time of 3.30 pm. Please see residential section of our newsletter that outlines our holiday club offer (28, 29 & 30 October). Please also be aware that Friday 6 November is a staff training day as per the holiday list. In spite of the ongoing restrictions that COVID19 places us all under I can assure you that all activities on site will continue to be well planned, risk assessed and wherever possible provide continuity and a sense of normality for purposeful learning experiences off site. ► **Best wishes, Stuart.**



HEADLINES

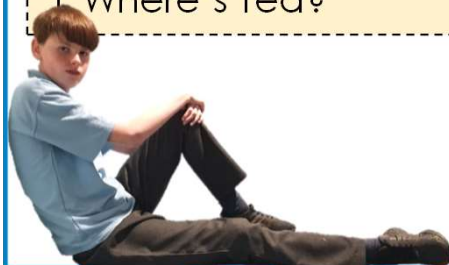
Stuart Jamieson

INSIDE

- | Be seen in **green** (or **blue**)
- | Health advice update
- | Poppy Appeal
- | Where's Ted?



CAN YOU FIND TED IN THE NEWSLETTER?





Reminder: Parents/Carers are reminded that Wargrave House School, College and LEAP operate a nut free policy. Please check prior to sending any items in to school that they are nut free. We currently have some students within school who have a nut allergy. Thanks for your support.

► Robert | School Nurse

THE ROYAL BRITISH

LEGION



We will be selling poppies from Monday 19 October to staff and students.

If you wish your child to purchase a poppy please send in a donation. As with all charity fundraising that we do please remember that this is entirely optional. However, having poppies in school does give staff an opportunity to raise students' awareness of this important cause and to teach them about related events that they may see or hear outside of school.

All monies raised will be passed to The Royal British Legion, the UK's leading Service charity. They provide practical care, advice and support to serving members of the Armed Forces, veterans of all ages, their families and dependents all year round. Please ensure any donations sent into school in respect of this are clearly marked with 'poppy appeal'.

Thanking you for your continued support.

► Ian Dickson
Assistant Head (Interim)

Safeguarding Update - Social Media Checklist

Dear parents and carers,

I want to bring your attention to a free downloadable resource available which provides a checklist to guide you through how to safely set up a profile on various popular social media platforms. These checklists offer easy to follow guidance for you and your child in order to keep those profiles under control and safe, including how to block users, who can see their profile, how to report abuse, etc. The social media platforms included are;

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Snapchat
- Roblox
- Tiktok
- Netflix



Check out the website provided for this free resource:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/checklists/>

► Natalie Molyneux & Mr Dickson

ASDA
GREEN TOKENS

Last year, we applied to be one of the charities that Asda customers support through their green tokens initiative. Due to Covid-19, this stopped so they shared out the store's total budget between the 3 charities, so we will receive £300! This will be put towards the equipment we are looking to buy for the sensory room.



If you haven't signed up already, please just click [HERE](#) and start shopping, raising money for us every time you shop online. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up!



royal manchester
children's hospital

Last Friday, school and college dressed in green or blue for 'Be Seen in Green or Blue Day' to raise funds for RMCH. We raised a fantastic £120. By taking part we have helped to fund vital treatment, research and care at the hospital for the 276,000 babies, children and young adults who walk through the hospital doors each year.

Disability Living Allowance - Contact for families with disabled children have some really clear and helpful information about Disability Living Allowance, eligibility and how to claim. If your child is not currently in receipt of this benefit please do take a look at their website. Don't forget, if you need any assistance completing forms, or have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me. Equally, if you are parent who has gone through this process and feel you could offer support, or advice, to another family please let me know, parent to parent support is extremely valuable ► **Claire Byrne**

HARVEST CELEBRATION 2020

During the Covid-19 emergency we feel that more than ever it is important to support local organisations through a Harvest celebration. Whilst we are unable to invite you to join us for a collective Harvest Festival celebration we do intend to focus on supporting an identified charity through this annual event. This year we are supporting St Helens food bank, in keeping with a traditional harvest theme. We are asking for families to donate non-perishable foods so that hampers can be made and delivered to collections points by our staff. Please send your items into school by Tuesday 20th October.

A typical food parcel includes:

Cereal, pasta, rice, pasta sauce/soup, lentils, beans/pulses, tinned meat/vegetables/fruit, tea/coffee, biscuits.

We thank you for your continued support. ► **Stuart Jamieson | Head of Education**

BASE1 learnt about physical features of Kenya



RISE students found a caterpillar. The Pale Tussock moth caterpillar is fairly common in the south Britain. Most often recorded in October, it may be found walking on the ground looking to pupate.



BASE4 learned about how to make change from £5 during their Numeracy session. Peter enjoyed using the till.



In **BASE1**, Archie, James & Oliver enjoyed time at the park after a sensory walk. Students were engaged in making giant bubbles in Glenda's SALT session. Max matched objects to correct numbers in Numeracy.

This half term **BASE4** have been focusing on orienteering in PE. They have been learning about how to follow a route and mark designated places on the map. They have used these skills to find treasure and challenge themselves to complete an orienteering task as quickly as they can. Some of the students developed their leadership skills by guiding the group. They did a fantastic job and they really enjoyed themselves.



ENGAGE

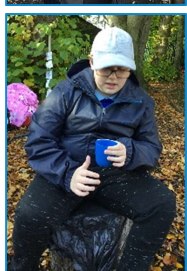
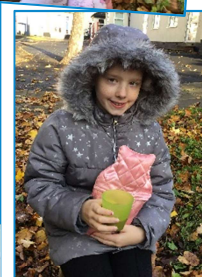
Engage out at Delamere Forest. They made their sandwiches for the visit and all walked the trail, jumping the puddles along the way.



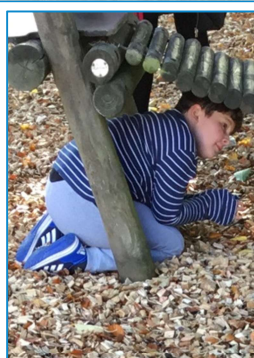
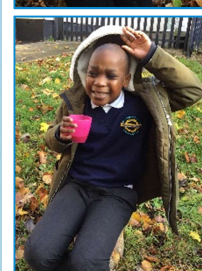
The new Engage curriculum focuses on skills and context based activities that encourage active engagement in learning. Students develop key skills in communication, cognition, independence, physical development and self-care. We also have lots of fun! ► **Miss Thompson**



Outdoor Learning



During Outdoor Learning, **RISE1 & 2** have continued learning about Autumn. They have focussed on 'hibernation' and have explored this through stories, playing hide and seek, properties of materials and investigating differences between warm and cold. The group also made a hedgehog house and are hoping we might get a sleepy visitor to the garden soon. Excellent work RISE! Can you spot which students are imagining what hibernating might feel like? ► **Nic Brown**



This half term the Speech and Language therapy team have introduced Makaton as part of the Total Communication package offered by Wargrave House. We've chosen Makaton as it has such a large vocabulary, it has a wider reach and many more users

than other sign systems, and it has lots of media coverage (thanks in part to Mr Tumble!) - meaning Makaton signs are widely accessible for parents and students to teach themselves and implement within the home. Two of our therapists are now trained to Makaton level 2, as is our Speech and Language Therapy Assistant, with another therapist trained to Makaton Level 1, and this vocabulary is now being used throughout the organisation. As with other methods of Alternative and Augmentative communication, signing is not used to replace speech but rather to support it, as well as aiding understanding. Each week the sign of the week will be available to watch on our YouTube channel, as well as our Facebook page, and is being modelled by a different student! So please watch and learn! Some other great websites to explore are:

• singinghands.co.uk • www.makaton.org - Happy signing!

► **Michele Davies (Interim Head of Therapy)**

Character Values

With the current situation, the Wargrave Character Values have taken on even more importance. As a school community, we have shown tremendous confidence and resilience on our full return to school with attendance at almost 95%. The amazing kindness is shown everyday by our staff, parents and pupils who have encouraged each other to be the best they can be throughout this period. The value of Kindness has also been evident during our supported Genes for Jeans, Manchester Children's Hospital and Macmillan. We are excited to see the creativity of our students as part of our class celebrations for Halloween. ► **Ian Dickson**



Tooth Brushing



After a short break we have now reinstated the supervised tooth brushing programme for all of our RISE and BASE students. In the North West of England dental health is poor with 34.8 % of children having experienced dental decay by the age of five. By taking part in the supervised tooth brushing programme all children are given the chance to brush their teeth daily with a family fluoride toothpaste. Class staff supervise this activity at all times.

Useful tips!

- Brush teeth last thing at night and on one other occasion (this is in addition to the tooth brushing programme activity).
- Children should spit out after brushing and not rinse.
- Children should be supervised when brushing their teeth until the age of 7-8 years old.
- Take children to the dentist from an early age.
- Choose milk and plain water to keep teeth healthy.
- Reduce the amount of sugary foods and drinks and keep them to mealtimes only wherever possible.

Global Hand Hygiene Day Thursday 15th October



"For Global Hand Hygiene Day on the 15th of October we sent home a hand hygiene kit for each student which I hope you have all received and found helpful. Global Hand Hygiene Day serves as a yearly reminder that handwashing with soap and water is one of the best steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. The main goal of the Global Hand Hygiene Day is to recognize that handwashing is one of the most effective actions you can take to reduce the spread of pathogens and prevent infections, including the COVID-19 virus. All of our students are continuing to wash their hands regularly during transitions, before and after meals, on arrival at school, after using the bathroom and after blowing their nose, coughing and sneezing. We are very proud of all their efforts to keep themselves and each other safe. "

► **Robert | School Health Nurse**

E-Safety Focus



This week, many students have been looking at apps that appear on phones, like social media (Facebook, WhatsApp), utilities (calendars, alarm clocks), shopping (eBay, Amazon) and games (various). They suggested what each one is useful for and how each one might be considered a positive or negative, depending on the age of the person using them. Many expressed a good understanding of the negative effects

► **Mr Whittaker**



STUDENT VOICE

Calum says "LEAP Residential is an amazing place, the staff are dead nice, it's home from home and if I could stay here I would, forever, and ever and ever! "My fave thing is, well, I just love it, the environment, the activities, everything, I just love it! Daisy said the Saturday club is "fun".



Saturday is fun and very exciting and I love all the staff and it's very fun with all the staff and it's always nice to see every body at the Saturday club.
Jessica

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

D.A.R.K (Davey's Acts of Random Kindness) is a community group that was set up to remember Davey Fallon by performing Random Acts of Kindness within the local community. They have kindly donated coded boxes for LEAP residential students to safely transport their medication. THANK YOU!



Meet the team

Getting to know...

Lorraine

Residential Learning Support Assistant

How long have you worked at Wargrave House School?

8 years this month.

What do you like about working here?

How the students grow in confidence and personally.

What is your best memory working here?

When there was a flurry of snow and we could see the snowflakes at the windows, all the children were so excited that it was snowing.

What did you do before you came to work here?

I worked with adults.

If you were trapped on a desert island what 3 items would you take with you and why?

A blush pink fluffy blanket for the night time to feel cosy. A cup to have a drink from and a hamper of goodies to enjoy.

Who is your hero and why?

My dad! Because, he carries on regardless!

Thanks Lorraine!



Dates to remember

We have a fun packed – socially distanced (of course) **October Holiday Club** on the horizon - **28th/29th/30th October 2020.**

Did you know that we offer tea-time sessions, overnight stays, holiday clubs and Saturday clubs? Contact Chris Powell for further information!!!

CELEBRATING WHAT WE DO

During the summer, the residential team presented “**10 days of summer fun!**” And it was just that – 10 themed, fun-packed days was had by all!

Tues 4th Aug and Wed 5th Aug



Thurs 6th and Fri 7th Aug



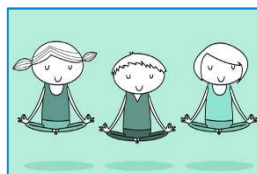
Mon 27th and Tue 28th July



Wed 29th and Thurs 30th July



Fri 31st July and Mon 3rd Aug



“Today you are you, that is truer than true. There is no one alive that is youer than you”

- Dr Seuss

On 4th September we celebrated “**National Carers Day**” – Chris, our Senior Care Manager presented all of the carers; the residential team, with a care package - important and thoughtful gifts to celebrate the hard work they do as carers.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Over the last few months the Residential department has had a restructure; we have said goodbye to colleagues who have moved on to pastures new and welcomed staff with open arms into their new posts. We would like to thank everyone for their patience, support and well wishes for the team as we go full steam ahead in to this academic year.



Sarah Powell
Deputy Care Manager



Ashton Ewen
Senior Residential Learning Support Assistant



Linda van den Hoek
Senior Waking Night Staff

Staff who have moved on – Niki Turton, Lynne Kean, Marie Porter, Sue Bridges, Helen Slavin (now class-based TSA), Kirsty Brown (now class-based TSA)



WELLBEING - With [#worldmentalhealthday2020](#) in mind, we have reflected on how well the students have settled back in and taken the reins at their level and pace. As we focus on mental health awareness we thought we would share some important contact numbers with you:

- - - - -

St Helens Mind - Provide mental health and wellbeing support to people aged 18+ and offers services including befriending, social groups and activities, volunteering opportunities & signposting [01744 647089](#).

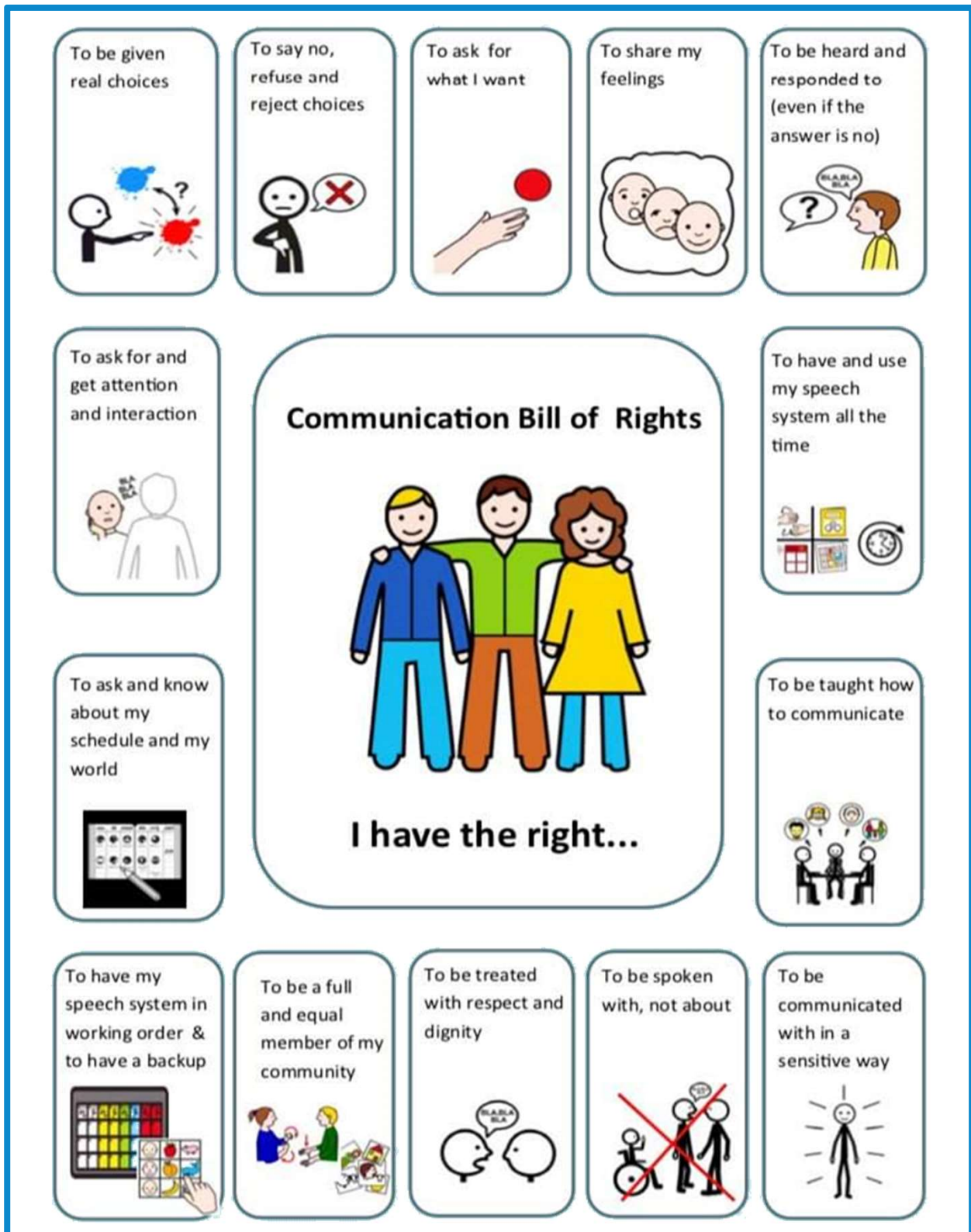
MINDSMATTER - Provide support to people in St Helens aged 16 and over who are experiencing stress, anxiety or depression. They can offer self-help, one to one and group therapy – [01744 647100](#).

NO PANIC - a registered charity which helps people who suffer from Panic Attacks, Phobias, Obsessive Compulsive Disorders and other related anxiety disorders. No Panic also provides support for the carers of people who suffer from anxiety disorders. [Youth Helpline 0330 606 1174](#) [Helpline 0300 7729844](#) [Office 01952 680460](#).

BEAT - you are never alone with your eating disorder. We are here to support people who have or are worried they have an eating disorder, as well as others affected, such as friends and family members. [Helpline 0808 801 0677](#), [Student line 0808 801 0811](#), [Youthline 0808 801 0711](#)

AAC Awareness Month - I have the right to communicate...

October is AAC Awareness Month - so let's start with a definition! AAC stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication and it is all about providing strategies and communication aids that support or replace someone's speech when they can't rely upon it to communicate. AAC doesn't have to be technology based – it can be something as simple as a few key words on a piece of paper, signing, or a photograph. Communication is a fundamental right for every single person – in whatever format is best for them! Keep an eye on our Facebook and YouTube pages for some examples of our amazing students using their AAC, and some hints and tips throughout the month!



COLLEGE NEWS



CEO UPDATE

Robin Bush

Dear Parents & Carers

As we approach our second half term, please ensure that if there is a change to your family circumstances regarding COVID 19 you liaise directly with class staff and where necessary our health care lead Robert Richardson. We will continue to ensure our risk assessments are fully compliant throughout our whole organisation. Ahead of our Harvest Festival this year, you will receive a letter from Richard Grimmer, our Deputy Head, inviting you to make a food donation as part of our outreach to the local community. Gaynor Singleton, TSA, will be working with Richard to ensure that your kindness is distributed effectively so all your contributions will be most gratefully received. We were delighted to see that the fantastic work of Danielle Bettle and our student Eco Team being promoted in last week's local newspaper, the St Helens Star, highlighting our continued commitment to excellence in environmental action and learning. I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable October half term. ► **Best wishes, Robin.**



HEADLINES

Stuart Jamieson

Dear Parents & Carers

Thank you for all your good wishes and kindness following my return last week. Like so many people at this time I am indebted to the skill and dedication of our NHS staff having undertaken emergency surgery on my right eye. I am delighted to be back at Wargrave House, our newsletter is testimony to the richness of opportunities for all our young people provided by a very committed staff body. No doubt you are all looking forward to our half term break which begins next Friday, 23 October with our normal finish time of 3.30 pm. Please see residential section of our newsletter that outlines our holiday club offer (28, 29 & 30 October). Please also be aware that Friday 6 November is a full staff training day as per the holiday list. In spite of the ongoing restrictions that COVID19 places us all under I can assure you that all activities on site will continue to be well planned, risk assessed and wherever possible provide continuity and a sense of normality for purposeful learning experiences off site.

► **Best wishes, Stuart.**



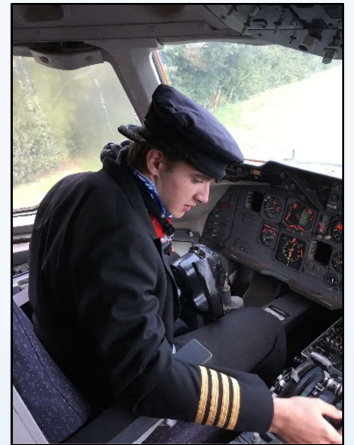
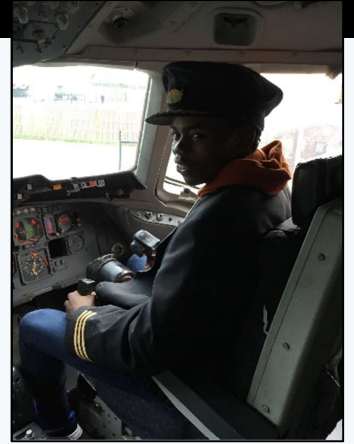
Post-16

Julliet Doherty

Dear Students, Parents & Carers

Welcome to our latest edition of the Post-16 section of the Wargrave Newsletter. It is with great pleasure and pride that I have the opportunity to share with you some of our students' amazing achievements. Firstly, **Courtney Shawcross**, who joined us in September from Lakeside College, has more than impressed us with her resilience and determination whilst undertaking the Access to HE Level 3 qualification. Courtney is working on an Education themed pathway to enable her to progress onto a university of choice or into her chosen career. Currently studying Gothic Fiction and its socio historic contexts in relation to the period it emerged. Secondly **William Owen Harrison**, has been working on his first rotation as our Supported Intern and in his own words completing this is building his 'confidence'. William is going to be sharing with you all some of the fantastic jobs he is doing around school and college on our YouTube channel, titled 'Will's Workshops'. Please do visit the Wargrave House YouTube account to share in the wonderful workshops that Will has started. Lakeside 1 and LEAP 1 students have all successfully achieved their belts in MMA this half term thanks to the wonderful instruction from **Shireen Hussein**. Lakeside 1 have achieved Yellow while **Khovan** has worked on his Leadership Award supporting the students to pass their belts. In LEAP, **Nicky Carmichael** achieved his Blue Belt, while **Courtney** and **Ben** achieved Yellow. All Post-16 students have been actively preparing for Remembrance Day by creatively designing poppies from a range of recyclable resources. This is for Newton and Earlestown Community Group who are planning a poppy cascade to cover the front of Earlestown town hall, behind the war memorial, for the remembrance weekend. As I am sure you will all agree a superb end to the first half term, student positivity, creativity and resilience has been incredible despite the global pandemic that has without doubt impacted on all of us in many different ways. Well done Post-16 and to all the students who we are proud to celebrate in the newsletter. Take care ► **Julliet and the staff from post-16**

-- Lakeside & LEAP --



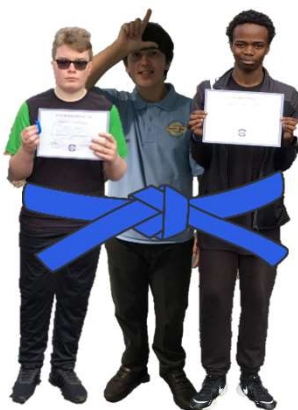
LS1:

We had a tour to learn about the airport, went inside the plane classroom and visited Concorde.



-- Lakeside & LEAP --

LS1 successfully completed all requirements under the Rules of Kazoku Self Defence to achieve Yellow Belt (Tarran, Brandon, Ethan, Owen), Blue Belt (Alfie, Vincent, Yanick), and Level One Leadership (Khovan). Passed by Shireen Hussein (Head Instructor). They completed MA moves, showed focus, respect, self discipline, confidence and resilience.



For work experience at Enovert, **Tarran** completed an Environmental Review of Lyme and Wood Pits Country Park which also adds to the criteria for Eco Schools under Biodiversity. "Today I walked around the country park attached to Enovert to do an Environmental review to see if it was safe for animals and humans and took pictures as evidence. In my findings overall it was good but there is a need for small improvements. We found litter, a gated area without access, a fallen branch that can be dangerous for humans and broken tree surrounds scattered about. We found habitats suitable for foxes, birds, mice, bugs, rabbits, frogs, fish, leeches and rats with all natural areas for them to forage for their own food."



Vincent took to the road at Oulton Park recently, getting to grips with cornering, braking, changing gear and reversing!



-- Lakeside & LEAP --

LS2 are making poppies to help decorate the Earlestown Town Hall. We need as many as possible and are making them from the bottom of plastic bottles in all different sizes. If you could send us some that would be fantastic and if you could cut the bottom off before you send them, then even better. Thank you.



LEAP enjoyed a day at Mountain Monkey's, organised by 'National Citizen Services'. Students spent the day completing team building exercises, archery, team games and ended the day toasting marshmallows on the homemade camp fire.



-- Lakeside & LEAP --

Students from **LS1** took part in a session led by Oliver Jude. Oliver shared his passion and positivity by giving students an overview of his life and getting students to think about their personal qualities and dreams for the future. For more information about Oliver's story visit his social media "Oliver Jude Clothing" and "The Positivity People CIC" on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or visit his website www.oliverjudeclothing.com



LEAP1 created some poppies for the memorial at the town hall in Earlestown. The local community have decided to make a Poppy Cascade for remembrance day so we have got involved.



Lakeside (plus Kieran & Alicia) held their first ever football training session on a local pitch college.

