



28 May 2021

2020/2021 - No.13



Therapy dog

Staff goodbyes

Martial arts

Outdoor learning

Bon voyage, Byron!

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Wargrave News



The Autism Specialists



...where's Ted?

Dear parents and carers,



CEO UPDATE

Robin Bush

I would like to thank all our staff for their professionalism and relentless hard work throughout the first half of Summer term. Throughout the week's break we will ensure our site remains fully COVID-19 compliant in spite of the ongoing easing of restrictions nationally. I would like to express my personal thanks to Michele Davies our Specialist Speech & Language Therapist who moves on to pastures new today following her dedication to students at Wargrave House. We know that Michele will be particularly missed in our Post-16 provision where she has greatly enhanced the independent learning, communication skills and decision making of our young people. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Elaine France for her 23 years plus service at Wargrave House. Elaine has ensured, along with our team of domestics that Wargrave is always immaculately clean, which has been particularly important throughout the pandemic. We all wish Elaine the absolute very best and a huge thank you from all at Wargrave House. We are very much looking forward to sharing with you the student events for the end of our Summer term, which you will receive in the next edition of our newsletter on 18 June 2021. This will include key events such as our celebratory end of term assembly. Wishing you an enjoyable family break. ► **Best wishes, Robin.**

Hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. We have been delighted to see a number of our students this week completing their martial arts (MMA) belts. This significant achievement is due to the expertise of Shireen Hussein in relating so well to our young people and developing their self-esteem and confidence in learning a new skill which has greatly enhanced their personal resilience, we look forward to our students facing the next challenge in the very near future. Please take some time to view the photos on our Facebook page. At Wargrave House, we are consistently striving to ensure we provide the best continuing professional development for our staff. So many of our colleagues across the organisation go above and beyond developing their knowledge and expertise for which we are very grateful. This week we were very pleased to see a School's Direct trainee Mark Hartley being awarded Qualified Teacher Status following his year long placement with us here at Wargrave. Our thanks go to Monica Pennycook who acted as Mark's mentor liaising directly with his learning provider, partner school and Liverpool John Moore's University, we wish Mark every success in his future career in the teaching profession. Alongside this newsletter you will receive a paper copy of Parent's Consultation Evening for you to complete and return to school/college, this event will run from 3.45 – 6.00pm. Please confirm your chosen preference for either meeting on site, remotely through TEAMS or arranging a telephone call. With the weather forecast for next week turning to warm/hot! we hope you have a quality, restful half term and look forward to seeing the return of all our students on Monday 7 June. ► **Best wishes, Stuart.**



HEADLINES

Stuart Jamieson

Negative online experiences

- - WHAT CAN WE DO? - -

1. Talk about **GENERAL** risks and what can go wrong online wherever you are
2. Use **NON-SCARY EXAMPLES** to talk about how to respond to dares, challenges, scares and threats
3. Make sure children and young people know who to talk to and where to get **HELP** from different sources
4. Focus on the **POSITIVES** – after all, if we say it's all bad, they won't listen to us



Safeguarding children on the Internet

Children are growing up in an increasingly digital world, exposing them to both the opportunities and the risks of the internet. It is vital that children learn how to stay safe online. From what constitutes a strong password to whether they should accept a photo from an unknown source via Bluetooth, read on to find out more about how to support our students.

Take a look at the risks and benefits of the internet for autistic people and their families. We discuss issues such as cyberbullying and hacking, before exploring the value of the internet in developing friendships and support networks.



This guide explores safeguarding and child protection with specific reference to autistic young people. It outlines what all professionals should consider when they have concerns about a young person's welfare or safety. The material draws on national statutory guidance.

Goodbye Michele & Elaine

Our Speech & Language Therapist, Michele Davies and Domestic Assistant, Elaine France are leaving. Michele has played a highly significant role across school & college, particularly in recent years with the development of embedding therapy within the college and associated wider community. Michele has fostered positive relationships with staff, students and families leaving a legacy of a positive impact on young adults' lives. Elaine has been with us for over 23 years, ensuring Wargrave is always immaculately clean, which has been particularly important throughout the pandemic. We all wish them well for the future. Good luck Michele and Elaine. From the Wargrave family.



Therapy dog

People with autism can benefit educationally and emotionally, increase their understanding of responsibility and develop empathy and nurturing skills through contact with pets. In addition to these benefits, students take great enjoyment from interaction with dogs and puppies. Therapy dogs can support the social, emotional and mental health wellbeing and promote positive behaviour.



From mid-June, Nico will join the Therapy Team as a puppy and will be trained over the summer months to then work at Wargrave as a Therapy dog. A letter will be sent home outlining more details and the risk assessments in place. We will keep you posted with regular pup-dates on Nico's development and role in school & college. Meanwhile here are some photo's of Nico.

NHS

Test and Trace

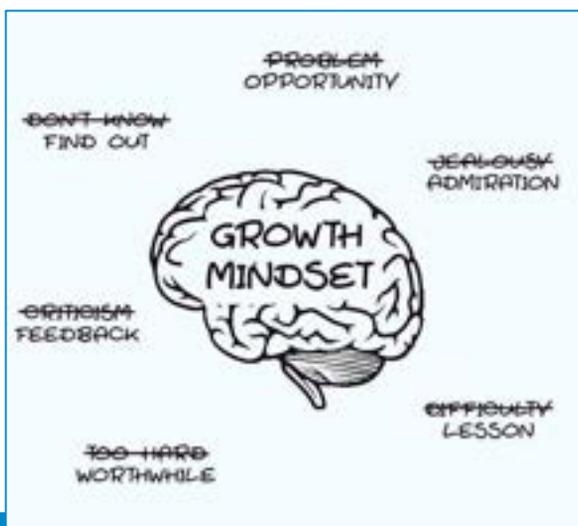
The government continues to strongly encourage rapid lateral flow self-testing (LFT) twice a week, including during school/college closure periods.

We have all been doing a great job of keeping Covid-19 at bay within school and college, so will you please continue

to test throughout the holiday period to help us stay ahead of the virus. If you need test kits, please let us know and we will supply these for you. Thank you.

What have you done today to make you feel proud?

During reflection week, learners have been developing their awareness of what it means to be proud. They have shown a great deal of maturity and confidence whilst reflecting on their achievements and identifying why they are proud. We are trying to turn negative thoughts in to positive thoughts through this process too. Why not try using different terminology to support our learners to adopt a positive mind set?



Bon Voyage, Byron!



Life in BASE3 will never be the same again and this is because we have had to say a very sad farewell to Byron Ritson who has returned to Australia with his family. Byron joined us in April 2015 and soon became an integral part of the Wargrave family. Byron enjoyed baking, exploring nature, rebound therapy, making music, and creating intricate and imaginative dinosaur and Godzilla models out of plasticine. We all had the pleasure of watching Byron grow in confidence and become the kind, funny young man he is today.



Safeguarding: E-Safety

As part of our ongoing safeguarding work we have had a staff focus on E-safety. Research carried out by Internet Matters demonstrates why this is such an important issues. Below are some key facts based on the research over the last 12 months.

- 20% of 8-11 years olds have a social media account. This rises to 70% for 11-15 years olds.
- 42% of young people report seeing things online that they are not comfortable with
- 15% of teenagers have sent nude images to someone they have never met
- 93% of people aged 11-15 feel confident that they know what to do to stay safe on line
- Yet 40% of the same group didn't consider topless images to be inappropriate content

If you feel you require further information or have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact the safeguarding team in school. Further information can also be found [here](#). You can test your own knowledge by seeing how many of the apps above you recognise. Answers will be in the next newsletter.



RISE2: Outdoor Learning

As part of Outdoor Learning RISE2 visited the local community. We were very lucky to have such a sunny day. We spent some time on the park and having a picnic before we went on our nature walk. On our walk we spotted colours in nature, different plants and even spotted some fairy doors. RISE2 really enjoy being outdoors because it reduces anxieties and supports our physical and emotional wellbeing. Please follow the link for some exciting, outdoor activities you could enjoy during the half term holidays. <https://earthcubs.com/learn/activities>



Martial Arts

On Tuesday, Max had his grading in Martial Arts and

passed! He has earned his blue belt with white stripe. Sonia and Liam worked hard on their martial arts sessions this term. Coach Shireen Hussein came into school to grade student progress. We are delighted to report that both students smashed their martial arts yellow belt. Shireen came to class for a celebratory snack.



RISE1



RISE1 have enjoyed designing and making masks in drama. In Outdoor learning we recapped ways of transport and tested different outside surfaces to see which was best. This week has been reflection week, the learners worked hard and looked through all their hard work this half term. Well done RISE1!



BASE4

Peter has really enjoyed an active week, including raising money for school by walking 50k. He has also been helping Will in the garden, preparing some flower beds and moving the soil. **Alicia, Max and Kieran have done really well this term in their Martial Arts sessions, all earning their next level belt.** All three have really enjoyed their sessions with Jana and Shireen – Well done everyone! Alicia has tried really hard this half Term, practising on some work experience skills by waitressing for BASE4, taking orders and preparing snacks.

She received lots of positive feedback from her customers, both learners and staff.



BASE3

This week BASE3 continued to enjoy a range of "Learning Outside the Classroom" activities. We had a visitor called Alex from Mountain Monkeys who taught us some basic survival skills, which included how to make a spark using a flint and how to toast marshmallows over a small campfire. We took part in an extended walk which took us through the countryside enabling us all to walk a total distance of 1.76 miles. John, Luke and Sean transplanted their beans and sunflower plants into our planters as part of the Skills section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and we are pleased to announce that each of these learners have now successfully completed the Skills, Volunteer and Physical elements of the course.



On Wednesday we completed the first expedition practice as the next phase of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme where Base 3 and Base 4 joined forces to walk within the community and along the canal carrying out map-reading and leadership activities.





LEAP Specialist College



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Staff goodbyes

Science museum

Adventure golf

MMA

Cosy Corner Café

Eco-schools



LEAP Specialist College

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The Autism Specialists

**LAKE SIDE
& LEAP NEWS**

Dear parents and carers,



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HEADLINES

Stuart Jamieson



Post-16

Julliet Doherty

Dear students, parents, and carers, thank you for all your support over the past months with the twice weekly lateral flow testing, we do appreciate the enormity of the task and your commitment to safeguarding everyone. As you will be aware there are variants of concern in different areas of the country and therefore, we ask you to be even more vigilant to protect your loved ones and those in your wider circle. We are following all government guidelines around the road map out of lockdown very carefully. Please continue to test across the half term. We hope you enjoy reading about the achievements and progress of your sons/daughters this past half term and we all wish you a safe, relaxed, and happy May half term holiday.

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► **Best wishes, Julliet and the team.**

Mixed Martial Arts: Meet the coach

What do you like about coming to Wargrave?

I like many things about Wargrave, one thing I love is how polite all the students are.

What are the students learning during your sessions?

I am teaching a curriculum in which all students can be successful. They can learn fitness based martial arts moves, whilst having fun and learning about my main martial art principles, which are: **Focus, Respect, Confidence, Kindness, Resilience.**



MMA Coach; Shireen

What's the best part of teaching martial arts in Wargrave?

Seeing the students enjoying my classes and seeing how much their focus and confidence improves over each lesson.

What made you want to teach MA in Wargrave?

I have two children with autism. One who attends Wargrave. I noticed that my children started to thrive in confidence and resilience when I started teaching them martial arts but at the same time one of my children found it a bit tricky to keep up with the mainstream lessons I was teaching at the time, so I decided to set up an additional class, with an altered curriculum so that it suited everyone regardless of ability. From there I moved on to teaching MA in Wargrave.

What is a mat chat?

Each MA lesson we have mat chat time. This is a time students can sit and rest for 5 minutes, whilst I talk about our "word of the week" which will be related to the main principles. Students get to tell me about how they have demonstrated the "word of the week" at school and at home. I love hearing all their examples!

Will: Supported intern

Will has been completing lots of jobs around the school and college. He has put up a notice board, helped clear the gutters, swept outside to stop dirt being trampled into the school, increased the height of a fence to stop people climbing over, cut the grass and moved more flower beds with another student. These are all important jobs and as the academic year has progressed Will has really developed his skills in completing these jobs and is enjoying taking more responsibility for completing with less and less support.



Careers & Employability update

Our regular Post-16 student employability skills audit was completed this week. This ensures that each student's work placement is dovetailed with their individual skills, knowledge and aspirations. As expected, the audit revealed a diversity of student interests and skills which include basic construction, mechanics, hospitality, horticulture/forestry, animal care and computing. We will now review all of our placements and continue to support the students with a variety of bespoke vocational experiences.

Colliers Moss

LS1 continue to visit Collier's Moss with Dave our Mersey Forest Trustee. They have identified a variety of small projects that include construction (footbridge repairs and drainage work with a construction company), forestry (basic woodland management) and ecological surveys that match their own individual interests. LS2 and LEAP students will also have the chance to become involved with these projects and promote their work through social media.



Tree-planting



Students in LS1 had a trip out to plant a Blackthorn tree in Mr and Mrs Burkey's garden as part of their community tree project. The Burkey family were happy with their new addition to the garden and the professionalism of the students. Trees are still available to order, if interested please contact daniellebettle@wargravehouse.com



Travel Training

Travel training continues as Post 16 makes up for lost time due to Covid. LS1 travelled independently by bus to Tesco to purchase their weekly snack items, under strict Covid protocol. Over the coming weeks LS1 will continue planning regular trips by bus using online bus timetables and paying for their own fares.



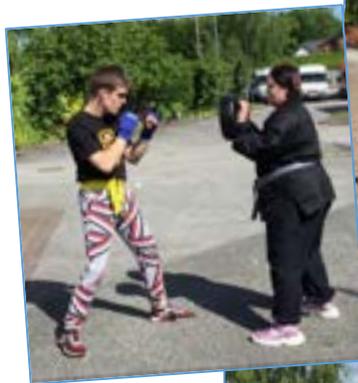
Thank you...

A big thank you from Post 16 students to the local Rotarians Mr Tom Naylor and Mr Barry Curran, who recently donated hand tools that our students are making good use of on their community projects.



LS1: MMA

LS1 took part in their MMA grading with Shireen, all students were amazing and showed focus, respect and dedication. Tarran, Brandon, Owen and Ethan all achieved their blue belt. Alfie, Yanick and Vincent achieved their orange belt. And Khovan achieved a strip on his black belt.



Manchester Science Museum

On Thursday 20th May, LEAP1 enjoyed a long awaited visit to the Manchester Science Museum. George used a machine to print a mill design onto a penny, and used the interactive displays to experiment with light and movement.



Top Secret

During our visit to the museum, LEAP1 students had the opportunity to learn about the world of espionage and code breakers.



Courtney and Nicky worked together to crack a code. Jack and Will learned about Hieroglyphics. Nicky studied a Lego model of the new GCHQ building.



LS1: Khovan's Birthday

LS1 enjoyed a trip to adventure golf at Trafford Park to celebrate Khovan's 17th Birthday.



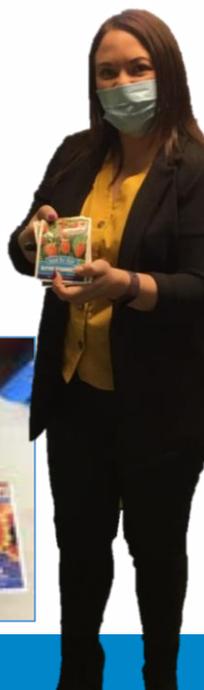
MMA

Khovan has achieved his leadership level certificate. Nicky has achieved his orange belt. Courtney and Ben have achieved their blue belts! We are absolutely delighted with all the dedication and hard work that each student has put in. Also, a massive thank you to Shireen for hard work and enthusiasm.



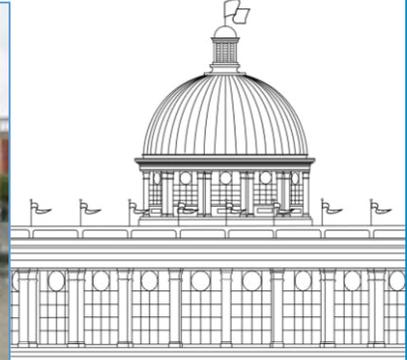
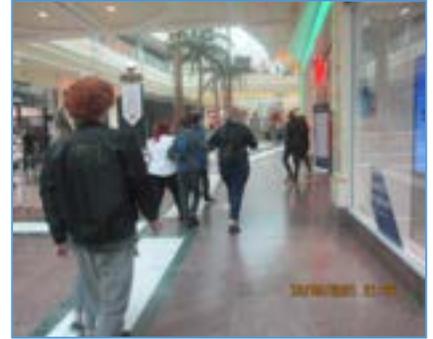
Sarah Watson from Empowering Learning very kindly donated free seeds as part of the Eco Schools Campaign. Empowering

Learning are working in partnership with local schools to promote healthy eating and Eco awareness. John in BASE 3 a long-standing member of our Eco Schools team will be planting them as part our School Grounds and Healthy Living Topic.



LS2: Trafford Centre

LS2 went to the Trafford Centre and made choices of what shops they liked. Then we went to Krispy Kreme to watch the making process of the doughnuts which all students enjoyed trying at the end.



Cosy Corner Café

The Cosy Corner cafe students were delighted to re-open for table service today and served lots of very happy students and staff. Students explored new roles today and showed amazing versatility, Well done! After the half term break the cafe will offer indoor and outdoor seating so watch this space for more exciting news.

