



18 June 2021

2020/2021 - No.14

T-Shirt Competition

Big Bee Challenge 

Duke of Edinburgh

Outdoor Learning

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access more information



Wargrave News

The Autism Specialists



...where's Ted?

Dear parents and carers,



CEO UPDATE

Robin Bush

I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. In spite of the challenges throughout this academic year, I am pleased to share that all our staff team are working tirelessly to finish the term well along with preparing for the next academic year. As you are aware school and college is closed to students on Thursday 1 and Friday 2 July to undertake training and forward planning. Following the government's plan to delay the easing of COVID restrictions initially until 19 July, we are naturally recognising the national protocol. All students will

continue to remain within their class bubbles and mix with others in outside play as distanced as possible. We regularly review and update our COVID 19 risk assessments which are underpinned by Hands, Face, Space. All our provision is well ventilated, regularly deep cleaned, with students receiving regular reminders to maximise hand sanitisation and general hygiene practice. All our staff wear face coverings when transitioning across our premises. Amongst the highlights of this week's newsletter you'll hopefully enjoy reading about our ongoing developments and student participation within martial arts, horse riding and mountain monkeys.

Have a good weekend, Robin.

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of a former student, Joshua, who has recently gained accreditation through his level 3 assessments having left Wargrave House in 2015. Juliet Doherty, our Head of Post 16 Learning, was delighted to receive this news in person along with confirmation that Joshua has gained a place studying a Foundation Degree in Early Years and Education in September. Please take note of the wonderful article Alicia has written about role models who have inspired BASE 4 students. During the remainder of this half term, we will be continuing to support and challenge our students in all aspects of their learning, including Post 16 accredited learning courses, phonics development within school as well as a keen focus on all curriculum areas.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable weekend, Stuart.



HEADLINES

Stuart Jamieson

Our most-watched YouTube video



Click the video to watch out most-viewed YouTube upload, "You're The Voice". Learners from RISE1, RISE2, BASE1 and BASE4 did an excellent job using Makaton and have reached 459 views so far!



Countdown Maths Challenge



Can you make the **Main Target**, using the numbers in the blue boxes? You can use $+$ $-$ \times and \div and you can use each blue number only once. Even harder: can you make the **Challenge Target**?



MAIN
TARGET

CHALLENGE
TARGET

265

678

Email your solutions to
iandickson@wargravehouse.com

Well done if you got last week's solutions!

Be Seen in Green

Today was **Be Seen In Green Day** in support of Manchester Children's Hospital, and in memory of our little superhero Ethan Counce. Staff wore an item of green clothing and donated to this fantastic cause.

Royal Manchester
Children's Hospital **Charity**



Radio 2's Big Bee Challenge

The **Big Bee Challenge** is Radio 2's brand new competition for kids, in partnership with the **Royal Horticultural Society**. It's a fun and creative way to learn more about bees and other insects that help provide much of the food we eat, and are essential for a healthy environment. Click the Big Bee logo > > for more information about how to enter and prizes.



Big Bee Challenge



New staff

Hello everyone, I'm Laura Blair, the new Therapy Assistant.

I'm extremely delighted to have joined the fantastic team at Wargrave House and LEAP College this term. Before starting, I worked as a Disabled Children and Young Person's Project Coordinator for Merseyside Youth Association managing a Short Breaks service, where children and young people had opportunity to engage in fun and inclusive activities at group sessions across Knowsley. I've also worked with children and young people with ASD as a Teaching Assistant in both Special and Mainstream schools in St Helens and Cheshire, all of which have led to me pursuing my passion for ASD at Wargrave. I'm extremely excited to get stuck into my new role where I'll be assisting the whole Therapy Team in the delivery of sessions and with administrative tasks. I've already had the warmest of welcomes and I can't wait to get to know everyone even more!



Therapy Dog update

Nico has settled in well at his new home and is looking forward to starting at Wargrave House.

He currently likes playing with his toys, running in the garden and lots of cuddles. So far he has learnt 'sit' and is very proud of this.

Nico will begin to come onsite from 23/6/21 and will be based in the therapy department during his introduction period. He will not work with students until he has completed his training, however students may start to notice him around the school/college site.

Please can permission forms be returned to school/college as soon as possible.



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.

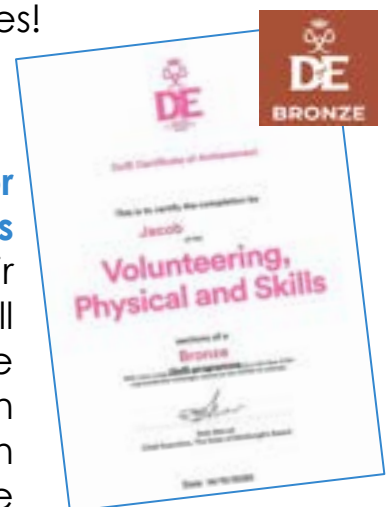
What is a mat chat?

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!

Duke of Edinburgh

Well done to our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh students for all of their hard work on completing the three sections of their award!

Each student worked hard in their chosen area during such a difficult time and will receive a certificate of recognition very soon! Bronze students have now begun training for their expedition section. This week we have been working on identifying risks and hazards and how to keep safe while enjoying the outdoors. BASE 3 & 4 students worked on safe road crossing techniques as a group, travelling on foot as a team and recognising and identifying dangerous plant life. All students continue to grow in skill and the team work and the support shown to one another throughout each session is exemplary.



Computing: Unitees Competition

In Computing, learners aged 14-18 had the opportunity to submit a t-shirt design for a **Unitees competition**. Here are some of the designs that were completed, featuring images and words around the topic of **Unity**. Younger learners have submitted their designs for a Wargrave competition.



Kieran, BASE4



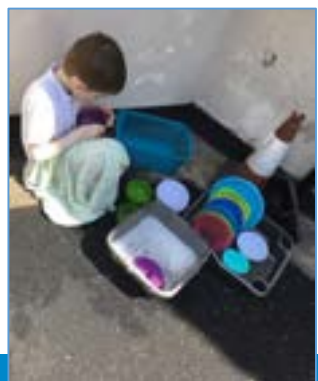
Outdoor Learning

This half term during Outdoor Learning the RISE department are focusing on nature and the story 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Everyone enjoyed experiencing moving 'over', 'under' and 'through'. In the coming weeks we will be sequencing the story using natural resources.



RISE1

Kieran has taken an interest in reading now he has moved from phonics to national curriculum. In outdoor learning, we have been exploring nature by placing teddy bears on top of, under and through objects. Kieran helped staff by washing all the dishes and drying them. In maths we have been looking at fractions. In science we have been looking at wild plants and painting them.



BASE3

BASE3 learners visited Mountain Monkeys for the day and in the morning were able to show their commitment to looking after our environment by collecting litter from the lake. After lunch, Sean and Alexis worked together to construct an outdoor shelter. Our Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition walks continue, and we can see Luke and Daisy enjoying their time together. We also learnt about the dangers of hogweed. In Science John, Christopher and Daisy explored the local flora using a magnifying glass to see the features of plants and flowers up close. BASE3 learners have also engaged in therapy sessions. Christopher worked on his core skills while Alexis, Sean and Luke worked on their listening, following instructions, and giving instructions skills.



Engage

Engage have been to Delamere forest where they enjoyed a lovely picnic and a walk exploring nature. Liam has made hot dogs for his friends' snack following a written work system whilst William has made muffin pizza using a visual schedule.

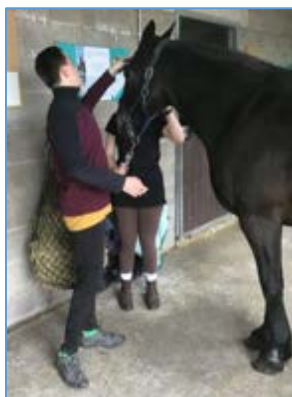


BASE4

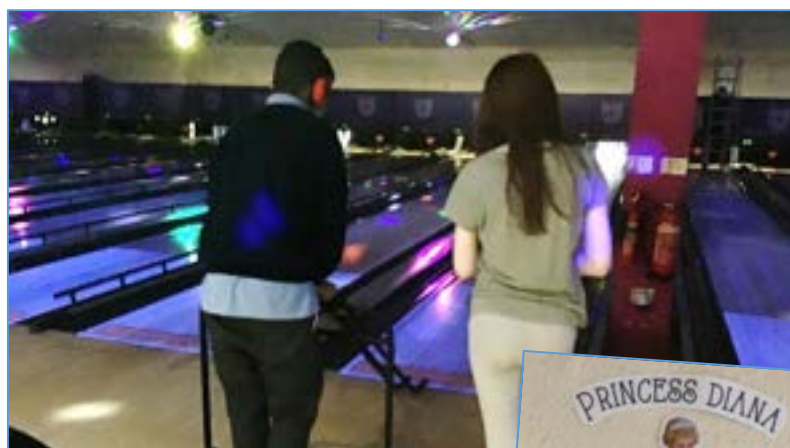
Peter and Jess really enjoyed the stables this week with the therapy team. Peter worked really well completing tasks around the yard and brushing down the horses. Jess brushed down the horse "Maverick" and even rode him! Staff were really impressed by both learners – well done guys!



BASE4 have celebrated two birthdays this week, and enjoyed parties for Alex and Kieran!



BASE4 have enjoyed the start of their bowling PE lessons with Mrs Carr, Max Lever ending up as the champion!



Inspirational Wall

Recently, BASE4 have made a wall of inspiring people, past and the present, outside their classroom.

Students made a variety of choices such as Princess Diana, Marcus Rashford, Malala, Leonardo Da Vinci, Frida Kalo and Merida. All of this was a part of their life lesson by researching interesting facts about the person they chose and finding out what Wargrave values they represent. We have learnt that many people are leaders, they inspire people to be their best and have left a mark on this world we call home and the future generation.



LAKE SIDE & LEAP NEWS

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[NCS & Mountain Monkeys](#)

[Careers & Employability](#)

[Community Day](#)

[Cosy Corner Café](#)



LEAP Specialist College

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HEADLINES

Stuart Jamieson



Post-16

Julliet Doherty

We are very proud of a former student who came back to visit us recently and shared his amazing success at achieving his Level 3 qualification and was named student of the year at Riverside College, he has now been offered a place on a Foundation Degree course. We always aim high for all our young people, and this is a wonderful example of a student's success through their commitment to a future aspiration to be a TSA. I hope you enjoy this latest newsletter as much as we enjoy putting it together to share the outstanding success stories of our young people. **Best wishes, Julliet and the Post 16 team.**

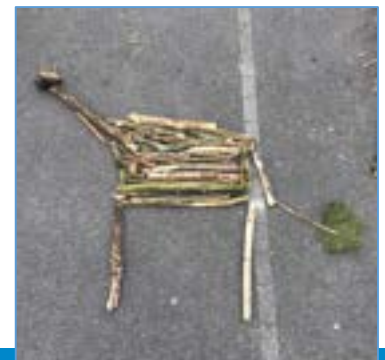
NCS & Mountain Monkeys

LEAP1 and LS1 enjoyed working together alongside NCS and Mountain Monkeys. They took part in canoeing where some of the more daring students had the chance to jump in. Students took turns to use an air rifle and we all worked together to complete some team building activities. Fun was had by all and we had lots of laughs.



LS1: NCS

LS1 students and Alicia enjoyed taking part in a range of activities developing their team building skills with NCS. Everyone did an excellent job working together and supporting each other.



Cosy Corner Café

Having completed a thorough induction process, Yanick started his new role of Cosy Corner Café assistant cook today working alongside Lisa in the LEAP kitchen cooking the café orders. Yanick looked very smart in his new kitchen uniform and worked really well. Alfie served drinks and took the money, whilst Ethan and Brandon carried out the roles of waiters in our inside and outside dining areas, ensuring all the café customers were happy.



Earlestown Cricket Club

Ben and Nicky worked hard at Earlestown Cricket Club. Thank you to local resident, Will, who donated a generous number of brand-new tools and then stayed and helped us with our project. Ben, Nicky and the team were grateful for all his help!



Easter Fayre Plant Progress

LEAP1 students and staff were delighted to receive this email sent to Jan today. They were pleased to see that their work has had such a positive outcome. Receiving feedback is always appreciated as it helps the students to prepare for future events. Thank you Elizabeth.

"Marcus chose two small plants at the Easter Fayre for us. I've had them in the kitchen and have recently had to pot them out as they've grown so big! I didn't know if any of the students in college who prepared the plants would like to see their progress? This is just the two little ones and how they've grown, they now surround the pond in our sensory garden. Thanks, Elizabeth."



Earlestown Cricket Club

LEAP1 would like to thank all the wonderful members of the community, near and far, who have donated many items, from garden ornaments, tools and furniture to wood, pallets and a shed. All items have been gratefully received and are enjoying, or awaiting a new life.

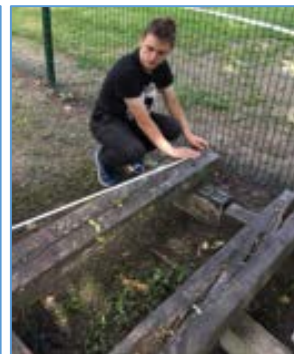


Careers & Employability update

We will now be reviewing and evaluating the careers and employability programme to make the curricula activities, events and work placements even better for next year. One area that we will focus on is 'linking curriculum learning to careers' and we are working closely with the CEO of Primary Engineer which is an organisation that brings engineering and engineers into the classroom. Watch this space for a launch in the Autumn term!

Meanwhile, Post 16 students are putting the finishing touches to their Open Awards Skills for Further Learning and Employment and Travel Training portfolios. Despite the setbacks that we have endured due to COVID, students have worked extremely hard to complete their work that includes aspects of personal action planning and development, preparation for work, construction, horticulture/forestry, hospitality and travel training to name but a few.

LS1 continue to work at Earlestown Cricket Club. They managed to upcycle some old railway sleepers and have now drawn up the plans for their raised vegetable beds at Earlestown Cricket Club. This will provide fresh vegetables for the local foodbank and is part of a long-term project with LEAP and LS2.



Students measure the sleepers in college before measuring up the area they have cleared for their market gardening project. Meanwhile, Ethan gets some guidance on maintenance of the cricket club lawnmower.

LEAP1: Community Day

LEAP1 celebrated the relaxing of restrictions by visiting a local pub for lunch. Staff and students would like to thank Mike, Charlotte and Sam at the Oak Tree for the warm welcome we received and the excellent service. The students also used the opportunity to practise their independent travel skills by using public transport.

