

# Wargrave News

issue 13



The Autism Specialists



Main School

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022



Creativity Confidence Resilience Respect Kindness

Class Pages

Attendance & Values

Outdoor Learning



National Autistic Society  
Autism Specialist Award Advanced 2022



PROACT-SCIPr-UK®

## Dear parents and carers

**Thank you for your continued support throughout the Spring term.** We have enjoyed being able to welcome visitors back on site in spite of the challenges that 'living with Covid' presents. Throughout the Easter break our site and facilities team will be working hard to deep clean all areas and maintain our facilities to the highest standards possible.

Today I was very proud to open the inaugural Sundial Therapy conference at Haydock Park Conference Centre. It was particularly fitting that our conference was scheduled within Autism Acceptance Week. The mission of Sundial is quite simply to develop independent autistic lives. I was pleased to see such a wider cross section of delegates including parents/carers, governors, trustees and local practitioners from schools and care settings as well as a number of colleagues who had travelled much further afield from Wrexham. Following my opening welcome our Head of Therapy & Clinical Services, Helen Driver, set the scene for the day. Helen was followed by Susan Allen who shared with all attendees key strategies for supporting young people through the eyes of parents. We were pleased that Jonny Knowles and Rachel Gittins from the National Autistic Society were able to join us having recently awarded us with the advanced autism accreditation. My thanks go to Helen and all her team for making this first event go so well. I would also like to thank Courtney and Alicia for welcoming and registering all delegates upon arrival alongside Yanick, Alfie and Brandon for hosting the lunch so professionally for all attendees.

**I wish you all a restful Easter holiday. Best wishes, Robin.**

**CEO UPDATE**  
**ROBIN BUSH**



**I hope this last Newsletter of the Spring term finds you well.**

In spite of the challenges presented through 'living with Covid' we have enjoyed a wonderfully productive term of learning and achievement across both school and college.

Last week we were delighted to welcome so many parents, carers and visitors to our Cosy Corner Café Spring Fayre. It was wonderful to see such great engagement and participation and those of you were able to purchase the merchandise produced by our students including spring flowers, mugs and confectionary. We were really pleased to see the Electric Stars performing with such confidence in their first public performance of the year following their December gig for the Earlestown Christmas Lights switch on.

This week have been focusing upon our learners reviewing their learning outcomes through 'Reflection Week'. This work provides our teaching and support staff with the opportunity of helping the young people consider the key achievements and targets for next term. Our leader of assessment Caroline Gorman will share with you the key outcomes next term.

You will all receive a letter inviting you to the parents/carers evening on Tuesday 10th May. Please save this date and consider the blended choice of visiting us onsite or having your appointment remotely. We hope you all enjoy the best possible Easter break hopefully with some warmer weather and look forward to welcoming all our young people back on Tuesday 19th April. **Best wishes, Stuart.**

**HEADLINES**  
**STUART JAMIESON**





## Assembly & Values

Last week we looked at the conflict in Ukraine during assembly. We watched a short video about how it is bad for people who live there and for many other people around the world. We spoke about how we are safe in our country and we can talk to adults if we are worried about what is going on. Our value winner of the week was Cayden, who showed great communication and **kindness** to others throughout the week,



**Max Jones won the award for Confidence** for showing great kayaking skills and jumping into the ice-cold water with **Jack**.



# sundial

developing independent autistic lives

**Hello, my name is Hannah, and I began working within the Sundial Team in March 2022.**

When applying to study Occupational Therapy (OT) at University, my ultimate end goal was always to work with autistic children and young people. I have a specific interest in Sensory Integration, having completed my dissertation on this topic, and look forward to my post-graduate studies in this area within the next two years. Working with autistic individuals is where my passion lies, as I truly believe in the positive impact that OT can have for the young people, and for their lives going forward. Although it can take time to see tangible benefits, it is always a pleasure to spend this time getting to know the young people, in a way that enables deeper understanding and insight. This allows our OT provision and bespoke packages of care to be best suited for the individual. Each of their needs and personalities are wonderfully unique, and we always strive to incorporate this knowledge into our approach within Therapy. I am beyond honoured to work with such wonderful young people, and I really look forward to the future of Sundial.



# New Summer Menus from 19<sup>th</sup> April

Salad & fruit options  
always available

**MONDAY**



**Chicken Curry & Rice**  
Veg Curry  
Roast Potatoes

Jam Sponge, Custard

**TUESDAY**



**Cheese & Tomato Pizza**  
Veg & Bean Wrap  
Potato Wedges  
Salad

Ice Cream

**WEDNESDAY**



**Beef Bolognese**  
Quorn Bolognese

Fruit Salad

## WEEK 1

**THURSDAY**



**Pasta & Meatballs**  
Tomato Veg Pasta

Jelly

**FRIDAY**



**Fish Fingers**  
Veg Fingers  
Chips, Beans

Cookie

**MONDAY**



**Turkey Burger**  
Quorn Burger  
Wedges

Shortbread Biscuit

**TUESDAY**



**Beef Burrito**  
Quorn Burrito  
Corn

Jelly

**WEDNESDAY**

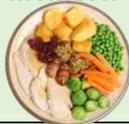


**Mac n Cheese**  
Crusty Cob  
Broccoli

Flap Jack

## WEEK 2

**THURSDAY**



**Roast Chicken**  
Quorn Fillet  
Roast Potatoes, Peas

Sponge & Custard

**FRIDAY**



**Fish**  
Salmon Fishcake  
Veg Fingers  
Chips, Beans/Peas

Gingerbread

**MONDAY**



**Chicken Pasta Bake**  
Garlic Bread

Ice Cream

**TUESDAY**



**Chicken Wrap**  
Quorn Wrap  
½ Jacket or Wedges

Brownie

**WEDNESDAY**



**Sausages & Mash**  
Quorn Sausages  
Broccoli

Fruit Salad

## WEEK 3

**THURSDAY**



**Minced Beef Pie**  
Minced Quorn Pie  
Roast Potatoes, Carrots

Sponge & Custard

**FRIDAY**



**Fishcake**  
Veg Burger  
Chips, Peas

Cookie



**In Engage we had a visit to Twinkle House. We had lots of fun exploring the different sensory environments.** Some enjoyed relaxing and watching the sensory lights and listening to different sounds, some enjoyed the slide and the pictures and sounds in the immersive room. We have also enjoyed our community visit to Sefton park, the sun came out to play and we enjoyed a leisurely walk, whilst looking at the different animals that we could see whilst walking. We have been working hard on our independent living skills. It was lovely to visit the cosy corner cafe during the spring fayre for a snack, we enjoyed sitting out in the sunshine and listening to the music whilst some of the other learners danced.





**RISE 1 have been enjoying going on trips to different places.** We went to Delamere Forest to follow the Superworm Trail. We liked running around in the open air and enjoyed looking at the views out across the forest. Lucas especially enjoyed seeing lots of different dogs that were running around. We have also been to Blue Planet Aquarium and we all had the BEST day! We loved seeing the different fishes swimming around in their tanks. Our favourites were the sharks and stingrays. We got to watch the feeding show in the large tank before ending the day playing on the giant playground.



# RISE2 & Outdoor Learning



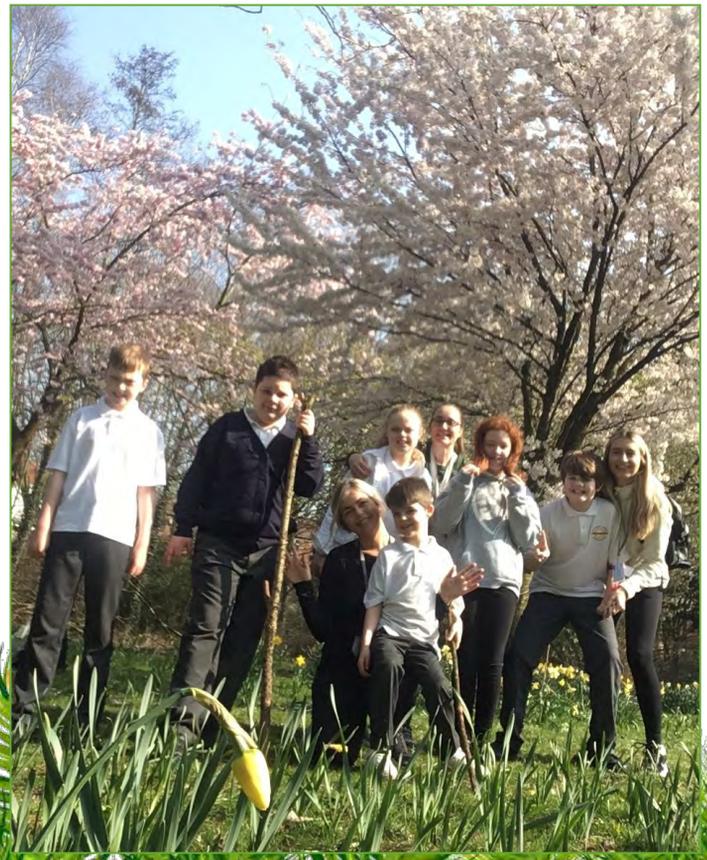
**RISE 2 were amazing artists during Outdoor Learning.** They visited the local park and did observational drawings of daffodils as part of spotting signs of Spring. It was a very mindful session with everyone enjoying the benefits of nature.



THERE IS NO WIFI IN THE  
FOREST BUT YOU WILL  
FIND A BETTER  
CONNECTION



*Come forth into the light  
of things, let nature be  
your teacher.*  
- William Wordsworth





Recently, for careers week, BASE1 created some products to sell for charity. They made a range of things from cakes to milkshakes which were then sold around school.





For British Science week, BASE2 became gardeners. We learned how plants grow by starting off as seeds and the conditions they need to grow - water and sunlight. We created Handy Gardeners, which are a range of seeds inside a glove. The seeds are: spring onion, broccoli, forget me nots, cress and white mustard. Our seeds have been growing over the last week and are doing really well.



We have done task master this half term with Glenda and Karen, learning about turn taking, social communication and friendships. Learners have enjoyed the sessions, especially dropping eggs. We also had a great time at Mountain Monkeys.



# BASE3



For the past couple of weeks, BASE3 have been canoeing and kayaking at Carmill Dam. They had lots of fun working as a team and learning about the importance of communication



# BASE4

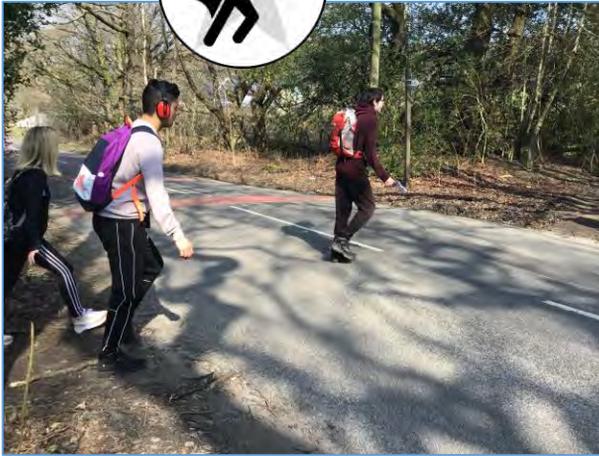


In BASE4 we've been very busy with a range of activities over the last 2 weeks. We've been to Mountain Monkeys where we have learnt about the safety of canoeing, binding two canoes together and working as a team on the water. We have also made mother's day cards and baked Easter cakes which we decorated with unique and creative designs.

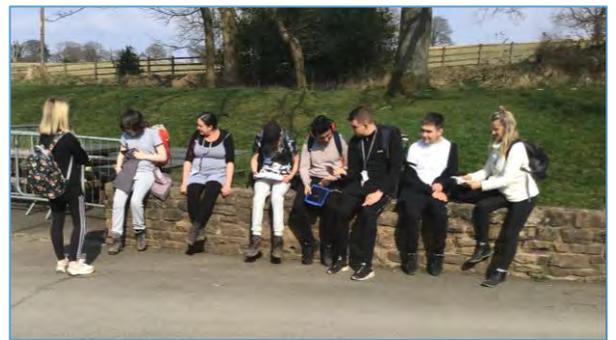




**BASE5 have continued building on their Expedition skills.** This term we have been focussing on our map reading skills in various locations. Here we are at Rivington Pike where we led staff on a walk around the grounds following map directions and a route card. We made it around in enough time to grab an Ice Cream!

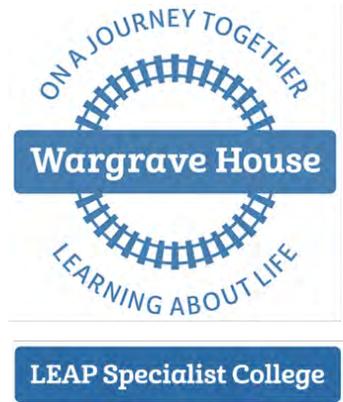


**Congratulations to BASE4 & 5 who have now completed 3 sections of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards for Bronze & Silver.** We look forward to having a celebration to give these partial awards on our return after Easter. Both groups are now into training for their upcoming expeditions in the Summer term. This will be a 2 day expedition for our Bronze and a 3 day with overnights for our Silver! We're really proud of our students and all they have achieved so far.



# Wargrave News

ISSUE 13



Lakeside & LEAP

1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Birthday Celebrations

Knowsley Safari Park

Careers

Class Pages

Student Intern



# Dear parents and carers

**POST-16**  
**JULIET DOHERTY**



**Dear students, parents and carers welcome to our Easter newsletter.** The Post 16/19 provision has had a very busy few weeks from the opening of the Lyme & Wood Learning hub to the Spring Fayre last Friday. Students have been demonstrating to family, friends, and visitors how incredibly remarkable and resilient they truly are. I am sure each and every one of you who visited us on the 25<sup>th</sup> March had a wonderful time enjoying the incredible Cosy Corner Café ambience, our outstanding 'Electric Stars' band and the wonderful assortment of Easter and seasonal handmade gifts on offer.

We have had a few birthday celebrations this past few weeks; Greg turned 18 and enjoyed a day out at the Catalyst museum with his class team and George has turned 21 - he chose go kart racing with peers and staff. We sincerely hope you all have a happy, safe and relaxing Easter break and look forward to welcoming you all back on the 19<sup>th</sup> April.

**Very best wishes from Juliet and the fabulous staff team in Post16/19.**

**Thank you for your continued support throughout the Spring term.** We have enjoyed being able to welcome

visitors back on site in spite of the challenges that 'living with Covid' presents. Throughout the Easter break our site and facilities team will be working hard to deep clean all areas and maintain our facilities to the highest standards possible.

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**I wish you all a restful Easter holiday. Best wishes, Robin.**

**CEO UPDATE**  
**ROBIN BUSH**



# Careers

**Last week saw the Easter fair link in with so many employability skills and you will have read the success of this business enterprise throughout the rest of the newsletter.**

Our inaugural Business Breakfast took place earlier this week at the Learning Hub. Mersey Forest Trustee Dave brought along his portable photographic studio and gave a talk about professional photography. Dave was supported throughout by Alicia who is already utilising Dave's expertise in the field and learning how to take the perfect landscape. Dave was so enthusiastic he didn't even stop for his breakfast!

**Alicia** is also exploring job opportunities for professional artists as well as photographers. Alicia has just submitted her drawing (with watercolour pens and metallic paints) for the on line Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show. Alicia said: "I thought of the idea 'Follow Your Dreams' from my passion to become a professional artist. I knew if I wanted to complete my dream, I must follow it, chase it and never give up on it despite how far away it may be".



**Alicia helps Dave set up**

Meanwhile, **Brandon** paid a visit to the new Penkford School build in order to chart Galliford Try's progress, as part of the Post 16 Social Media Group. He tried to work out the logistics of transporting our huge pile of donated wood to the Learning Hub. Post 16 students have lots of ideas of how we can use this wood to make items to sell on our market stall next term. Watch this space! Brandon has also taken the time to make a short blog about how employers can support their autistic colleagues in the work place and this is now available on our YouTube channel.



The new Key Stage 3 careers curriculum has been implemented in main school. Next half term, learners will focus on 'Grow Throughout Life'. This will involve learners reflecting on themselves, their background and their strengths.

Career Connect are now also working in partnership with Wargrave staff to provide independent careers information, advice and guidance to those learners at key transition points throughout the organisation.

Next term we also hope to trial a new a careers information service called Jed which makes careers information interesting, understandable and engaging.

Careers Education Information Advice & Guidance



**Steve Hogarth CEIAG Lead**



**Brandon checks out our Galliford Try storage area and donated wood.**



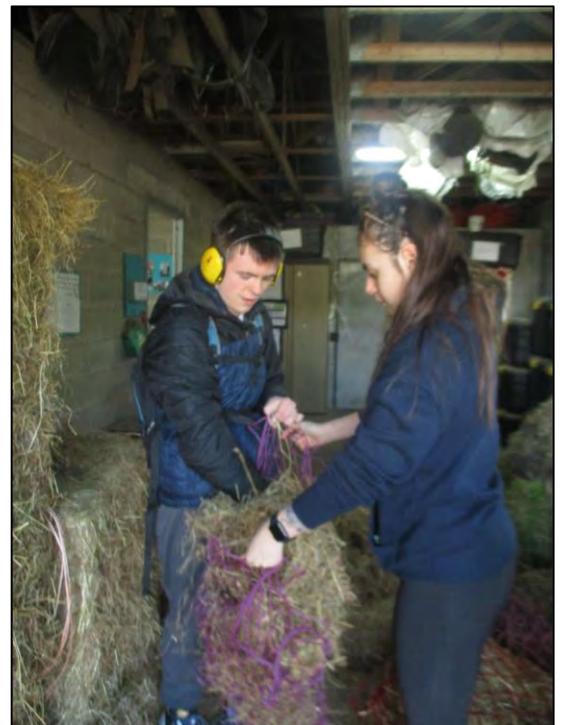
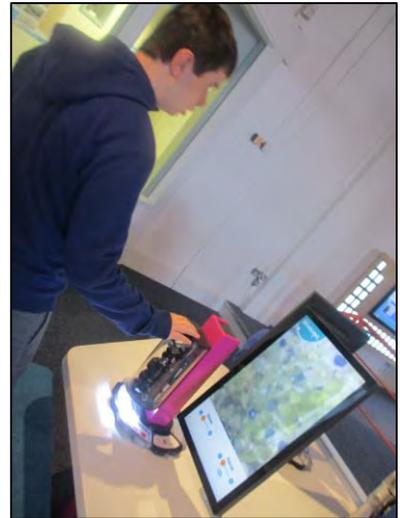
**Brandon enters the site using the face recognition system**



Greg enjoyed a visit with his class to the Catalyst Museum in Widnes to celebrate his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



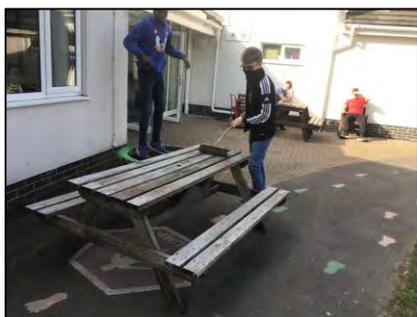
Greg and Rhys are continuing to visit the stables. They enjoy helping the staff to do jobs and help with the horses.



**This week LS1 & LS2 visited Knowsley Safari Park.** This was to work towards their Community Skills for their RARPA Award. The sea lions came out to play and the students loved the tricks that they performed, and the birds of prey flew around the room and even touched some of the heads of the students. On the safari drive the lions came that close to the minibus we thought they were coming in for tea.

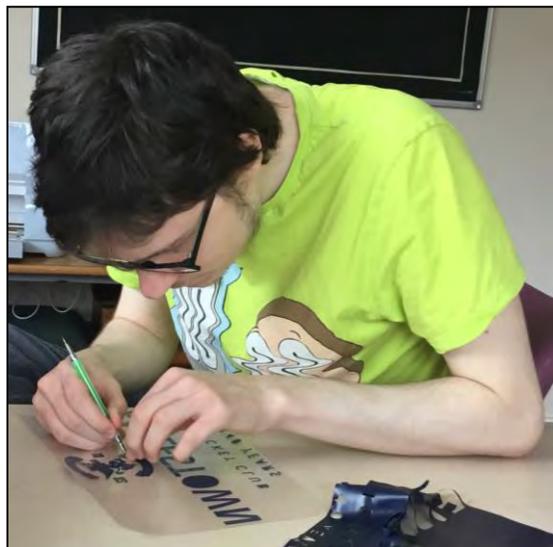


**LS1 & LS2 have been busy around the site over the last week helping out with site maintenance.** They enjoyed getting their hands dirty and were proud to see the results of their hard work.



## George in the Print Shop

George has been busy in our print shop this week printing t-shirts for Earlestown Cricket Club's 140-year celebrations. George enjoyed using the vinyl printer and cutting out the individual shapes using a weeding tool.



## Go-Karting!

At LEAP we pride ourselves in giving as many opportunities to experience as many different activities as possible. So today LEAP1 and 2 took a deep breath and decided to go Go-Karting at Team Karting, Rochdale. A number of students have shown an interest in learning to drive so we happily coupled this up with George's 21st birthday celebrations. Travel training at its best! The students did us proud and all thoroughly enjoyed it!



# Student Intern: Nicky

Nicky has been helping to get the RSPCA site ready for Spring over the last couple of weeks. He has been supporting Jenny with cleaning and organising the fundraising stock that will be used at the Spring Fair. Also, Nicky has been adding topsoil to all the pots ready for planting an array of different flowers.

