

# WargraveNews

Issue 3



The Autism Specialists

Main School

21 October 2022



Creativity



Confidence



Resilience



Respect



Kindness

Outdoor Learning

Community Visits

Duke of Edinburgh

Staff Introduction



**Dear parents and carers,**

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



We have really enjoyed seeing more of you all in person since September and are already looking forward to further enriching our strong partnership working next half term through a series of enjoyable and purposeful events highlighted throughout this edition of our newsletter.

Last Night I was delighted to meet so many of you in celebrating the tenth Birthday of LEAP College. The importance of this event was twofold. Firstly recognising the multiplicity of student successes over the last decade. Former parent Andrew Pearson spoke with such passion and pride regarding the journey both his sons had taken from Wargrave House School to LEAP College to secure employment. Andrew wanted everyone present to know that this success would not have been possible without the support and care of all staff past and present.

Secondly, our celebration marked the beginning of the launch for the rebranding and new identity of LEAP, soon to be called 'Ascent'. We are really looking forward to sharing our vision with you in due course.

I was so proud to welcome students, staff, governors, trustees and friends to Newton Sports Club. Phil Adams awarded students with their qualifications from both 'Open Awards' and 'City & Guilds'. The joy of watching students cheering on one another's success was a wonderful moment to behold. The sparkle of our evening was provided through a number of fantastic musical performances. These included Yanick's performance of 'Africa' following his incredible recording and production of this, his very own original song in the recording studio 'The Tile Yard', in London. The evening was topped off with The LEAP band Electric Stars, followed by Cal Ruddy a local performer who volunteers with our students. My thanks go to Julliet Doherty and all her talented staff for hosting the event with such aplomb.

Finally, keep an eye on our social media pages for something 'Remarkable' over the holidays.

**Wishing you a lovely half-term break,**  
 **Robin**

**Dear parents and carers,**

HEADLINES

STUART JAMIESON



I hope our newsletter finds you all safe and well. We have much to celebrate in our first half term. Learners, students and all the staff at Wargrave House School & Sixth Form College are delighted to share that the organisation has gained national recognition by being named as winner of the National Association of Special Schools (NASS) 'Outstanding Impact Award' at the prestigious NASS Awards 2022 announced at the NASS Annual Conference held on 6th & 7th October at The Grand Hotel, Brighton.

Wargrave House School & Sixth Form College were shortlisted as finalists for all three categories, the 'Breaking Barriers Award', the Outstanding Impact Award and the 'Innovation Award', demonstrating a consistent scope of expertise from all staff relating to Careers, Information Education and Guidance (CEIAG) as well as the Sundial Outreach Team. Sundial have gone above and beyond in providing outreach and transitioning complex placements for new learners who have previously been out of education for a significant amount of time.

On behalf of all our staff associated with the success, we're really pleased that our work is being recognised by NASS who are at the fore front of innovative practice, and I am exceptionally proud of all our learners, students and staff. This is a remarkable achievement, and this acknowledgement is a great testimony to our education and therapy teams who ensure we are at the forefront of national developments in providing the best possible learning experiences for all our young people.

My particular thanks go to Rebecca Worsley (Assistant Head) Tom Wilkinson (SENCo) Nic Brown (AEP) Laura Blair (OT Assistant) and Hannah Orman (OT) who made the long journey to Brighton to attend the conference and receive the award on our behalf.

Upon our return to school/college on Monday 31st October we are hosting a Pumpkin Patch maze event, marking the autumnal harvest season. This event was organised by Mrs Dickson. Additional key dates to look forward to next half term include our Harvest Assembly on Thursday 3rd November and Remembrance Festival on Friday 11th November. Please note the school & college is closed to students on Friday 4th November (as published in our term dates) for staff training.

In the first week of the next half term, you will all receive a letter inviting you to our parents/carers progress evening on Thursday 17th November from 3:45 pm – 6:00 pm. We are really looking forward to meeting you all in person, following two years of remote forums.

**I wish you all a very restful and restorative half-term holiday,  
Best wishes,  
Stuart**



# Why We Won the 'Outstanding Impact Award' 2022



*As we shared in the last Issue of our Newsletter, we were granted the 'Outstanding Impact Award' 2022. The event happened at the 2022 NASS Annual Conference held on the 6th & 7th of October 2022. After being shortlisted as finalists for the categories' Breaking Barriers Award', Outstanding Impact Award and the 'Innovation Award', we were nominated as a winner by the National Association of Special Schools (NASS).*



## Do you know why we are the best?



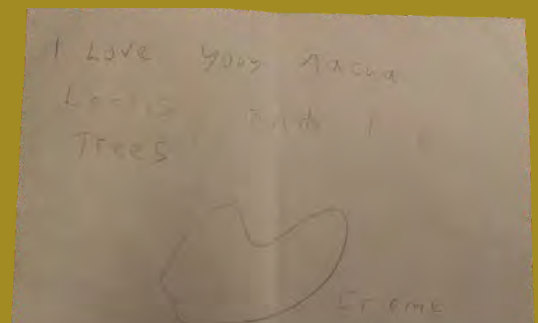
We were awarded the above Outstanding Impact Award mainly due to the work we have done around Outdoor Learning Education via the Duke of Edinburgh programme which has become an integral part of our school curriculum. We introduced the DofE Scheme in 2020, becoming a Directly Licensed Centre (DLC) in 2021-22. With the autonomy this brings, we are becoming a beacon for implementing SEND DofE programmes across the NW. Whilst also working with UK-wide DofE to support changes that will allow a more accessible DofE programme for all.



Many of our learners have never previously stayed away from home, let alone experienced a camping trip. All these, including overnight expeditions, provide time and space for personal development, independence and self-esteem.

We provided much evidence that strongly shows the positive impact of the Duke of Edinburgh has on our students. Among them are documents explaining the impact, photographs showing the positive effect, a card written by a student, etc.

The card addressed to Nick was written by learner M spontaneously. The note reads: "I love your nature lessons and the trees". After drawing a heart on the card, learner M gave it to the teacher. The message on this card shows how powerfully and positively outdoor education impact learners. It is so effective that it gets students like M, who are usually hesitant to complete written tasks, to create a note like this.



Learners also experience the opportunity for social interaction, confidence building, appropriate risk-taking, developing resilience and building upon the learner's environmental knowledge and interests. All these ventures also prepare our learners to become responsible citizens and live everyday lives as adults.

Other successful impacts we have on our learners are developing their employability skills, including confidence, resilience and teamwork. Young people have also discovered new passions and talents which can influence their future careers. Providing a challenging but inclusive opportunity through non-competitive and achievable activities, regardless of ability, background, gender, race, religion or sexual orientation, we give them a chance to achieve their potential and develop their skills.



## Proud winners



We also demonstrated a consistent scope of expertise from all staff relating to Careers, Information Education and Guidance (CEIAG) and the Sundial Outreach Team. Sundial has gone above and beyond in providing outreach and transitioning complex placements for new learners who have previously been out of education for a significant amount of time.



The awards showcase the work of all the special schools in this sector, delivering exceptional education and helping students achieve whilst building self-esteem through immersive activities that enhance relationships at all levels.

**Stuart Jamieson, Head of Education, said, "We're really pleased that our work is being recognised by NASS, who are at the forefront of innovative practice. I am exceptionally proud of all our learners, students and staff. This is a remarkable achievement, and this acknowledgment is a great testimony to our education and therapy teams who ensure we are at the forefront of national developments in providing the best possible learning experiences for all our young people."**



**The National Association of Independent Schools & Non-Maintained Special Schools (NASS) works with and for special schools in the UK's independent, voluntary and private sectors. NASS is proud of its role in improving opportunities and standards for special schools.**






# sundial

developing independent autistic lives

If you would like to support your young person in crossing off the days before school resumes, here is a visual you might find useful.

## October 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 
31 						

© BlendiCalendarPages.com

Have a great half-term holiday,  
The Therapy Team



# Do You Know How to Stay Safe on Halloween and Bon Fire Night

As Halloween and Bonfire night fast approach, many people may attend firework displays or may have fireworks at home. Safety is a priority around this time of year due to the risk of accidental burns from fireworks and bonfires; please click on the link <https://www.safeandsound.uk.net/staying-safe-on-halloween-and-bon-fire-night/> for guidance to ensure your family stays safe and what to do if they should receive a burn.

**Have fun, and stay safe!**



## Talking Menopause!



In September, Robin Bush told the staff about the three main things we are discussing as an organisation this academic year: Mental Health, Sustainability and Menopause. Every October, usually around the 18th, it is national Menopause Day, so on Wednesday, the 19th of October, we had our Menopause Day event.

The staff were invited to watch a presentation and discuss how menopause affects people, mainly women, in their daily lives. The meeting was very well attended by all staff, some of whom shared their experiences of how going through menopause has affected them.



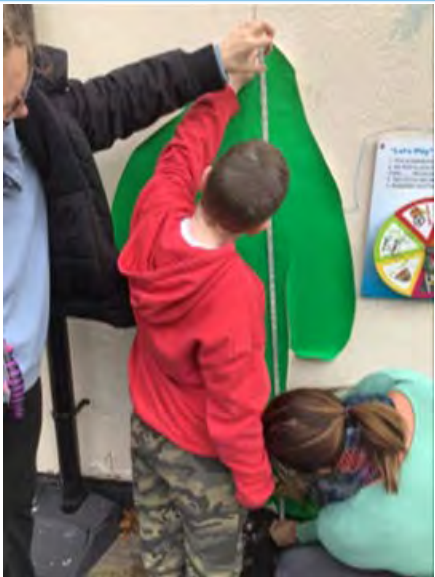
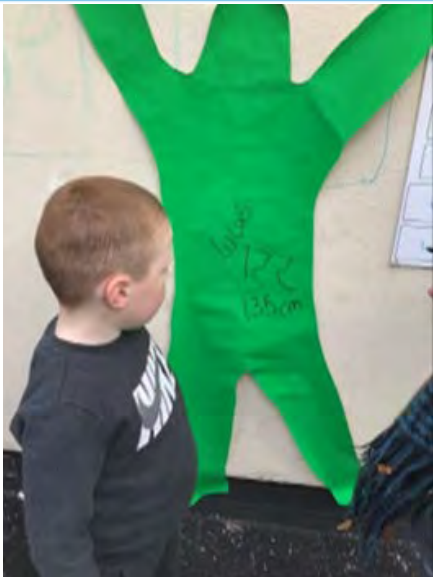


Photos of us getting out and about whatever the weather, pumpkin carving, shopping and road safety.



Visiting the local bakery is always a must!





RISE 1 have been very busy again. We have looked at measurement in Maths and had great fun seeing how tall we were. During Science, we explored animals and their homes. We worked outside to create a crocodile swamp. We have also been preparing for Halloween by buying pumpkins and making spooky biscuits. What a fun time!

**I hope you all have a lovely half-term holiday!**





RISE 2 have been working on team-building skills and turn-taking this half term. They have enjoyed Cosmic Kids yoga, building their local area using clay, using the equipment outside, and playing games!





## Superman or Policeman? Which profession does BASE1 like the most? You can ask them.

During the past week, BASE 1 have been looking at different professions for career day. Some of us dressed up in different occupations, and Jacob became Superman!



During humanities, the class looked at different artifacts, including different outfits from other cultures. We also enjoyed a trip to the park and having fun on the Merry Go Round. We made salt dough ornaments for Halloween as well.



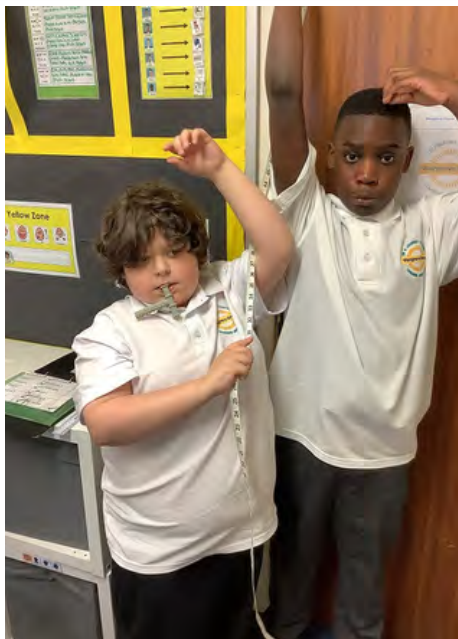
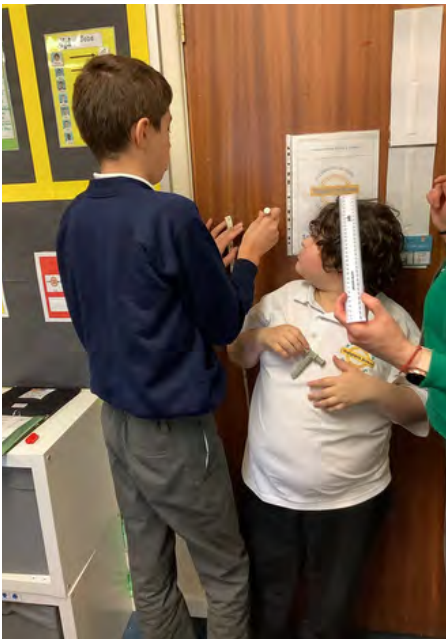


During the past two weeks, some of the things we have learned were turn-taking, closed questions, and listening in PHSE while playing board games.



In maths, we have been measuring objects including our friends and comparing which is the tallest/longest.

We have been continuing our road safety module in Preparation for Life by taking a trip to the supermarket using crossings and listening to and looking at the environment around us to judge if it is safe to cross.



## BASE 3

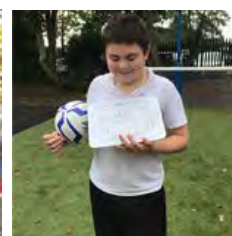
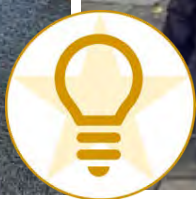


In BASE 3 this half term, we have covered various topics in our learning and therapy sessions. We have particularly enjoyed Lego Therapy, which has helped us to develop our team working, interaction and communication skills.

We have been very creative in our music lessons, looking at the origins of Jazz and Blues music and having a go at playing some instruments independently.



We have been looking at Harry Potter as our topic for reading this year, and all learners relished the opportunity to watch the film last week; we have a few learners in BASE 3 that can get into character very well and have been acting out certain scenes in their own time!



In our Prep for Life lessons, we have been learning about road safety and using this time to practice how to be safe when in the community. In maths, BASE 3 have been looking at place value, length and 2D shapes this half term, and we even compared our shoe sizes!





We've had a spooky two weeks in Base 4. We've made decorations for class and created scary biscuits. We have also been fortunate to go to Sandy Lane Farm and choose a pumpkin ready to carve for Halloween. We were also all very brave and went through a scary maze, in which we managed to find each letter and solve a scary puzzle!



## BASE 4 will work to improve recycling systems at Wargrave House & LEAP



BASE 4 will work to improve the current recycling systems at Wargrave House & LEAP College. As a part of this, BASE 4 have already started looking at how we currently recycle and how they can improve it. They have a planned trip for next term, which is visiting the recycling center to see the process of work there.

**Here is the newsletter of 4 pages related to recycling purposes that BASE 4 have prepared**



**Changes at Wargrave!!**



**Base 4 are going to lead our school in recycling.  
We would like all classes to separate paper,  
cardboard, plastic, bottles and cans.  
We will collect these for recycling each month.**



### Why recycling helps the planet

Recycling can reduce air and water pollution and it saves energy. Recycling also reduces emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change.

- Recycling paper and wood saves trees and forests. You can plant new trees, but you can't replace rainforest or ancient woodland once it is lost.
- Recycling plastic means we create less new plastic. This helps the whole environment as plastics take such a long time to break down.
- Recycling metals means there's less need for damaging mining. Mining is also risky and damages the health of the miners.
- Recycling glass reduces the need to use new raw materials like sand - would you believe that some types of sand are starting to become diminish around the world.





## How to recycle



Find out what you can recycle at home - check out your local council website to find out what you can put in your home recycling bins and whether you have a food and garden waste collection.

Check you have the right bins, box, bag or caddy - most councils have household recycling collections, so if you don't already have a recycling bin, box, bag or caddy you can contact your local authority to get them.

Check the date - find out from your local authority which day your recycling will be collected. Your recycling may be collected weekly, fortnightly or even monthly. Mark the date on a calendar or add a reminder to your phone.



Find a place to store your recycling - now that you know which items you can recycle. Find a place to store them before you take them out to the bin.

Make sure everyone in your house knows - encourage family to check whether items can be reused or recycled before they are thrown away. Check rooms you might not think of, like the bathroom.

If you don't have a recycling collection at home find your nearest recycling drop-off point. These are often at big supermarkets but your local tip has them too.

