

WARGRAVE HOUSE SCHOOL



Date: 26.05.2023

NEWSLETTER



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Autism
Specialist Award
Beacon 2022 



<https://www.wargravehouse.com/>

CEO Welcome

Hello Everyone,



CEO - Robin Bush

It has been a busy time for us here, previously the Charity that owns our school, college and Sundial Therapy Service was called Wargrave House Ltd. Having our Charity named Wargrave House, and our School also being named Wargrave House was causing some confusion. Therefore, we decided to rename the charity to make sure that all services had separate identities.

Our Charity is now called "Remarkable-Autism", the website went live in early May and showcases the work that takes place across all our services. Our college has also gone through a renaming process and is now called Ascent Specialist College, we have found some new premises for the college, and we hope that it will be able to move into its new home in early 2024.

We were also delighted to announce earlier this month the appointment of our new Head Teacher, Carl Glennon and our New Head of Therapy and Clinical Services Susie Gruber, both will make a positive addition to our already established Senior Leadership Team. Of course, with Carl's appointment it means that we will be saying goodbye, at the end of academic year, to our Interim Head Teacher Mark Leicester, Mark has been with us since January and has been an invaluable source of support to the Educational Leadership Team and Governors. We wish Mark well as he continues to provide his consultancy service and allows other schools to benefit from his expertise.

Lastly, I want to wish you all a fabulous half term break, your children have been fabulous, as always. We have seen groups out on Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions, raising funds for charities, working through accredited pathways, helping with interviewing for new staff and embodying the values of our organisation. Quite simply they have been Remarkable.

Best Wishes

Robin



Head Teacher Welcome



Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to our half-termly Newsletter.

Hello everyone I trust you are all well and looking forward to the half term break.

I want to begin with a thank you to parents and carers for their support at our recent parent consultation evening. It is really pleasing to see so many of you engaging with the school in such a positive manner and I believe this highlights that we are all in this together to get the best for our young people.

I am confident that parents and carers received the information about their learner that they need and that they have a good understanding of the progress being made at school. If for any reason you were not able to attend the parent meeting or talk to class staff please feel free to contact the class teacher for an update.

Despite having had two bank holidays in the last half term Wargrave House School has been a hive of activity as you will see in the rest of this newsletter. The whole range of experiences we can offer our students has continued with visits to the coast and country parks to name a few. These activities not only help our learners develop social skills but also help build their confidence in dealing with new surroundings or settings. Another activity worth mentioning has been the raising of money for local charities (mentioned in last week's bulletin) which shows both community awareness and citizenship. We are very proud of the students who took part.

Our focus on teaching and learning has continued and recently we have been looking at Science in the school. We have seen some excellent practice and some great experiences for our learners but we have also identified some areas that can be improved or developed further and these will be a focus for our planning for the New Year.

There are so many encouraging aspects to life at Wargrave but you don't just take need to take our word for it as we have undergone a number of external audits and/or inspections by Local Authorities and an inspector from NASS (National Association of Independent Schools and Non-Maintained Special Schools) and all have reported positively on the school. From a safeguarding audit by St Helens, and the visit from NASS through to an in depth provision audit by Halton LA, all have praised the quality of the provision in the school.

For example when looking at student voice and engagement the NASS representative commented that what he saw was *"one of, if not the best practice I have seen in all the schools I have visited"*. Comments from Halton LA representatives in their inspection included *"a skilled team of people who know their roles and are committed to giving the best for their children"*. It is pleasing to hear such positive comments from professional colleagues and I hope it reassures you as parents as to how we here at Wargrave House look after our children and help them develop as individuals.

Finally, as a result of all the excellent work and by having fantastic students we have been awarded Beacon Status as a school, a very prestigious nationally recognised award. I thought I would take this opportunity to say a massive well done and thank you to all the staff and students in the school on all these accolades.

Few would be surprised to hear I continue to enjoy my time at Wargrave House, I suppose the people and the place kind of 'get under your skin' so to speak and it is a privilege to work with you all.

I hope all students and parents have a relaxing and enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5th of June.

**Best wishes,
Mark**



A Coronation Celebration fit for a King

On Friday 5th May all of Wargrave enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation at school. Our learners wore their own clothes focusing on the colours of our flag red, white and blue and enjoyed afternoon tea and baking. They also made their own sandwiches for the party and visited the Fayre over at college.



All of the students across school and college enjoyed a fun and games outside and a British themed morning over at the Cosy Corner Cafe followed by a Wargrave wide afternoon tea with sandwiches, scones and cakes made by our very own students. We also enjoyed music and coronation themed party games!



Animal Visit for Science Week

For Science week we had a visit from some exotic animals, the students were excited to see the snakes, chameleons, rabbit, giant snail and sun beetles.



All of the students were very brave and had a turn at holding them or stroking them. Everyone was fascinated, even the staff!



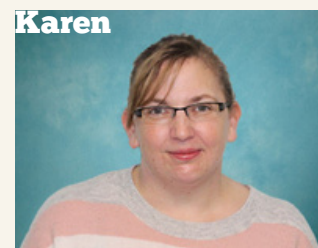
Everyone really enjoyed the animal visit day as part of Science week. The students loved holding and exploring the textures of the animals and finding out new facts. The animals which visited were snakes, lizards, bearded dragons, beetles and even a rabbit. All classes were extremely sensible and listened brilliantly to instructions on how to keep the animals safe and calm.



SENSE stands for Special Educational Need Supporting Education

Parent Networking Morning

We are looking to offer a parent networking morning on the 16th June from 9.30-11.00am. This would be a chance for parents to get together to share knowledge and experiences. This could be around SEND, Direct Payments, Family Fund and addition activities that may be open for your child/young person. Alongside this we will have members of the therapy team and educational staff to answer any questions you may have around the curriculum or therapy support. In the first instance please could you email karengriffin@wargravehouse.com to show your interest in attending and then further details will be communicated once numbers have been established.



An Important Reminder About Medication

Any medication sent in to school needs to be in the original packaging with a completed parental consent form.

Medication will be sent home at the end of every half term.

We are introducing a receipt system so either yourself, or the escort collecting your child/young person will sign to say they have received this at the end of half term. At the beginning of half term you or the escort will sign to say they have handed it over to school or as and when you send medication in during the term time.

If you have any queries around medication contact

KirstyBrown@wargravehouse.com



We know children love spending time outdoors, whether in the garden, park or beach, however, their skin is more delicate than an adult's and can easily be damaged by the sun, even when it doesn't seem strong.

SUN SAFETY



Use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 50 and at least 4 stars for UVA protection.



Wear sunglasses, ideally with wrap around lenses or wide arms, which carry CE and British Standard marks.



Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or sweating.



No sunscreen offers 100% protection so cover up with loose close weave clothing (such as cotton) and a wide brimmed hat to protect the neck, ears and face.



Generously apply sunscreen (5 teaspoons to cover the whole body) 15 to 20 minutes before going out.



Seek shade between 11am - 3pm when the sun is at its strongest. Always keep babies and toddlers in the shade if you can.



By following these simple tips your child will be able to stay safe and enjoy the sun. Remember parents, set your child a good example by also following this advice, and the whole family can have a happy sun safe summer.

For more information about the British Skin Foundation see
www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk
@BSFcharity

Update



This half term RISE 1 have been enjoying their 1:1 Speech and Language Therapy sessions with Becky. The sessions are play-based, child-led and lots of fun!

Matthew has build a house and is using the Makaton sign for Home



During the sessions the Speech and Language Therapist models language following the Natural Language Acquisition framework.



More information about Natural Language Acquisition and Gestalt Language Processing (language development that starts with delayed echolalia) to come soon!



Lunch Menus



YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK ONE

WEEK COMMENCING

17.04.23, 01.05.23, 15.05.23, 05.06.23,
19.06.23, 03.07.23, 17.07.23

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Cheese and tomato pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Beef burritos served with salsa nachos (Gluten)	Pepperoni pizza (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Roast chicken pie (Gluten, Milk)	Giant fish finger (Gluten)
PLANT POWER	Cheese and tomato pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn curry (Soya, Egg)	Cheese pizza (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn and veg pie (Soya, Egg, Gluten, Milk)	Veggie fingers (Gluten, milk)
SIDES	Garlic bread and broccoli (Gluten)	Rice and peas	Nachos coleslaw and corn (Gluten, milk)	Roast potato, peas or broccoli	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk, Soya)	Jelly	Cupcake (Gluten, Egg)	Donut (Gluten, Soya)	Biscuit (Gluten, Milk)



Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barmes with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad.
Fresh Fruit also available.

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE



YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK TWO

WEEK COMMENCING

24/04/23, 08/05/23, 22/05/23,
12/06/23, 26/06/23, 10/07/23

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten)	Chicken burgers (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Sausage roll (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Sausage (Gluten, Egg, Milk, Soya)	Chicken nuggets (Gluten, Soya)
PLANT POWER	Quorn meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Southen fried quorn burger(v) (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Vegetable sausage roll (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Meat free sausage (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Veggie dippers (Gluten)
SIDES	Veg of the day Garlic bread (Gluten, Soya)	Fries and peas	Wedges and beans	Mashed potato, peas or broccoli (Milk)	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk)	Krispie cake	Pancakes (Gluten, Milk)	Gingerbread biscuit (Gluten, Milk)	Cookie (Gluten, Milk)



Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barmes with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad.
Fresh Fruit also available.

MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE



Dates for your diary

Fri 26 May
School closes
for half-term
3.30pm

Mon 05 June
School re-opens
9am

12 - 16 June
E-safety week

Tues 27 June
Sports Day

Thur 29 June
Staff training
Students DO
NOT attend

Fri 30 June
School closed

Thur 20 July
Last day of term
Closing 2pm.



**Please remember
parents to keep your
information up date
with school. You can
call us or e-mail us to
keep us informed**



**As we know, some of our
students struggle to attend
appointments both at
school and with external
providers, we can provide a
service utilising visuals and
social stories. Let the
school know if you feel your
child would benefit from this
service.**





The students in Engage have enjoyed the King's Coronation activities this term. They have used their shopping skills to buy items for a class buffet and their baking skills to make scones.



Then they shared a tea party with other students across school and college enjoying lots of games and finishing off with a some lovely cakes!



RISE 1

RISE 1 have shown off their excellent phonics skills this half term! We have been learning all of our special friends sounds and been very creative in finding new ways to write and learn our sounds. We have also began a 'sound of the week' task, which has been an excellent way for us to think of write words we think of!
Well done RISE 1



We have explored a range of topics within maths this half term. In number, we have looked at groups of 2, 5 and 10, as well as learning a fun counting in groups song! In measure, we have began ordering the days of the week as well as learning about positional terms e.g. forwards and backwards.



Our community days have had a main focus in looking at animal safety and the care that goes into looking after an animals. We have built on our road safety awareness, as well as community skills by going on daily walks and following staff instruction. We look forward to more fun adventures next half term, learning about nature.



Across all lessons we have incorporated work around our 'zones of regulation' and looked at recognising how we might feel in certain situations. Overall, we've had a fulfilled half term, and we look forward to continuing it in our final half term of the year!



RISE 2

On Wednesday 3rd May, RISE 2 enjoyed an afternoon of Orienteering. Markers were placed around the school grounds and the students had to use a checklist and tick off each marker as they found them. They thoroughly enjoyed the race around trying to beat each other to the markers.



On Thursday 18th May RISE 2 enjoyed a trip to Walton Hall and Gardens to look at the animal habitats and navigate the staff around the park using directions and a map. While there we enjoyed the park and an ice cram in the sun.



BASE 1

BASE 1 enjoyed having afternoon tea outside and taking part in the games to celebrate the King's Coronation this half term.





We celebrated Kai turning 12 by having a small party in class and we all sang Happy Birthday to him as he blew out his candles.



For RE this term we have been looking at Shinto. BASE 1 explored the different artefacts and had lots of interesting ideas of what they could be!



BASE 2



BASE 2 explored the festival of Eid and learned about how families like to celebrate. We made lanterns and designed our own mehndi patterns. We all enjoyed the day.



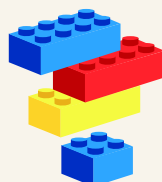
BASE 2 celebrated Earth Day on the 21st of April. We learned why this day is so special and how we can look after our planet. The learners gave some brilliant answers and enjoyed learning the Makaton signs for earth, green and recycle. We also completed recycling activities and Ianis made a superb earth decoration.



Excellent work BASE 2!

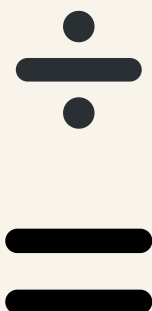
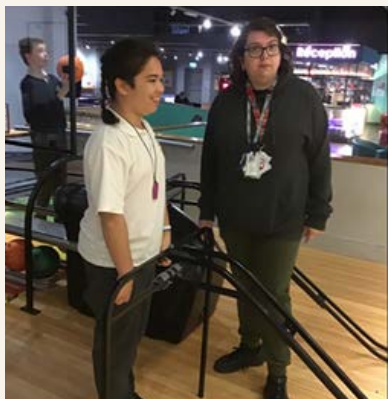


This half term BASE 2 have been working with Kevin one of our Speech and Language therapists on Lego Therapy. The learners have different roles and have really enjoyed the activity which supports communication and social skills.

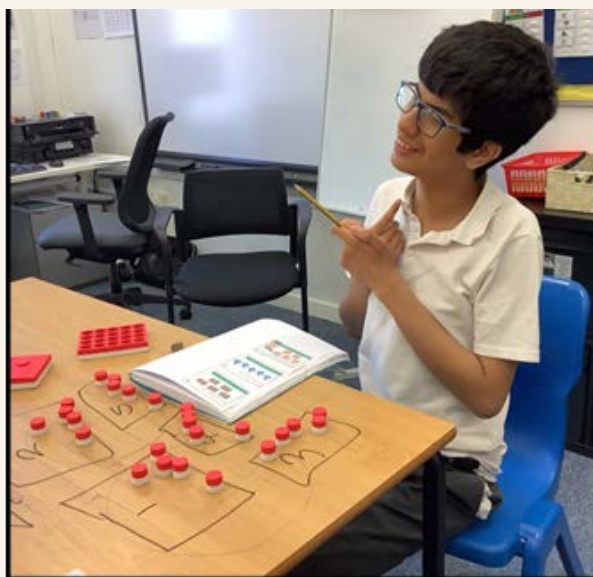


BASE 3

BASE 3 have been enjoying our prep for life sessions at tenpin bowling. We have been working on lots of different areas of the curriculum during these sessions including maths, communication and teamwork skills.



In our maths number lessons this half term, the focus has been division and sharing. We have shown this in lots of different ways which is important as everyone learns in different ways. We have all worked very hard.



BASE 4



BASE 4 have enjoyed visiting the Pre-Loved Project at Lyme and Wood Hub for prep for life. We enjoyed buying snacks there and looking around the shop. We also loved playing tag on the huge field there!

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We also made bird feeders in DofE and put them outside around the school and college.

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We celebrated 2 birthdays this term.
A PERFECT excuse for 2 parties!!



BASE 5 & 6



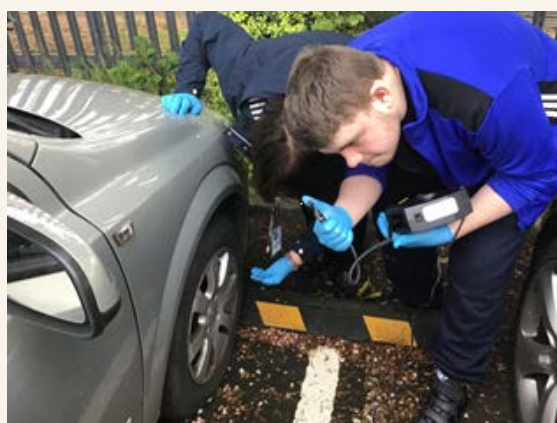
The learners took a trip to Rectorry Nurseries to have a look at the different plants that were on offer and to complete the mystical trail whilst keeping a look out for the "Golden Cow". The learners enjoyed the trip and a morning brew courtesy of our very own Daisy's family run business.



BASE 5 & 6



This year, Jamie has been working on his NCFE Maths and English qualifications. He has worked with staff to pump up car tyres, use electrical equipment and follow instructions. He has budgeted pocket and personal accounts on site and in the community.



The learners from BASE 5 & 6 got fully involved and really enjoyed the Exotic Animal Visit as part of Science Week. They all interacted with the animals and reptiles. The student's pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to face their fears. See our article above for more information

