



### In this issue:

- Recent Events
- Trips
- Careers
- Exams
- Facilities Hire
- The New B6
- Library News
- Open Evenings
- Primary Transition
- Dates for your Diary
- Student Successes
- Departmental News
- Vacancies

### A Message from the Acting Principal

It is with great pleasure that I write my first newsletter message as Acting Principal. The Autumn Term is always a busy one and this year is no exception! This term we saw the opening of the refurbished Bradgate Sixth Form. If you haven't had a chance to come and visit the new and upgraded facilities, then please do. It is well worth the visit.

Our students and staff have been working very hard and in this newsletter you can read about: the work of the Student Council in raising over £1000 for charity; the work of the Year 7 Social Action Group; the inaugural launch of the Wreake Writers publication with Ms Lovegrove and Mrs Shaw; the work Mr Parkinson has been leading on to support students in their future career choices; our Year 9 girls taking part in the Autonomous Electric Vehicles Challenge; Year 8 students stretching themselves under the guidance of Mr Wright to devise innovative ways of powering cities in the future; students across all year groups rehearsing with Mrs Connolly and Mr Clamp for this year's production 'Made in Dagenham' - do reserve your tickets for the performances which will take place 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February 2010; student trips to London and Hunstanton; Mrs Ward and Mrs Bosworth's work on marking the European Day of Languages; the work students have been doing in the library with Mrs Patel, as well as some new clubs – the Rubik's Cube club with Ms Holyman and the Amnesty International Youth Group. Wow – what a term!!

We are very impressed with the way Year 11 students are working with staff and preparing themselves for their future GCSEs in May and you can read about their hard work and commitment to their studies in this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Schools work best when there is a strong partnership with home and we appreciate the time you give us. Please do contact your child's tutor or Head of Year if you wish to discuss something with us.

We have included a list of upcoming events in the 'Dates for Your Diary' section and a reminder of our uniform, piercings and phone policies which you may find useful.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all  
a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.  
The school will reopen at 8.45am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Nicola Morland  
Acting Principal



Our rather bizarre Science Department Teachers



Inclusion Nail Bar



Cakes baked and donated by Mrs Walker



Children in Need Charity Council Student's working hard

### Recent Events

#### Children In Need & Anti Bullying Week



November has been a busy month for all at Wreake but more so for our student lead charity council members. They have been busy organising and planning the events that were to take place for Children in Need, a charity that we have supported for many years at WVA.

This year students across the school raised money for the cause by baking and selling a humongous amount of hand decorated cakes from ingredients that had been donated by students, staff and parents. It was a great success! We would like to say a special thank you to Mrs Walker who once again baked an array of homemade goodies for us to sell despite the fact that her daughter, Beth has finished her exams and no longer attends WVA.

Students also chose to have a non-uniform day for the donation of £1 and for a reason unknown to most, our Science Department staff chose to dress as creatures from the sea???

Many events took place across the week including an inter tutor group dodge ball tournaments and an Inclusion nail bar where you could have your nails transformed by staff and students for a small donation. Despite the fact the usually popular staff v students football match was cancelled due to the terrible weather we still

raised an amazing **£1181!**

The 11th—15th of November was Anti-Bullying Week. Our students discussed issues surrounding bullying in their Personal Development lessons and also discussed what we can do together and individually to help start the change against bullying. Our staff and students made individual pledges on what they could personally do to start the change against bullying and the best ideas are now on display in the foyer on our Anti Bullying display board and hanging from our Christmas Tree.



### Job Vacancies

#### Learning Support Assistants

26.25 hours per week/term time  
Salary Range: Grade 5 £10,850-£11,068  
Fixed term contract from until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

We are seeking to appoint lively and well-motivated people to provide Classroom support to students with learning difficulties. Applicants must be sensitive to individual pupil needs and good communicators with good standards of literacy and numeracy. Support is offered in all areas of the curriculum however the posts would ideally suit those with Mathematics or ASD as a specialism.

We would also welcome applications from Graduates contemplating a career in teaching.

For application details visit our website [www.wvacademy.org](http://www.wvacademy.org) or email [mira@wvacademy.org](mailto:mira@wvacademy.org)

#### Administrative Assistant – Attendance, Behaviour & Inclusion

37 Hours per week/39 weeks per annum  
Salary Range: Grade 7, Points 11-14  
£16,991-£18,031

We are seeking to appoint a hardworking and well-motivated administrator to work as part of our Inclusion Team. Using the SIMS suite of programs you will maintain key elements of our students' database, with particular regard to the collection, recording and reporting of student data, including daily contact with parents through an automated home calling programme. The post requires a pro-active approach and an ability to communicate well with teaching and support staff colleagues whilst working to tight time deadlines.

You should be educated to NVQ level 2 and hold GCSE or equivalent in English and Maths & be able to demonstrate a high level of ICT skills, or have a minimum of two years' experience working in a similar capacity.

For application details visit our website [www.wvacademy.org](http://www.wvacademy.org) or email [mira@wvacademy.org](mailto:mira@wvacademy.org)

CV's will not be accepted as a substitute for an application form.

Closing date for completed applications is 9am Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December.



## Newsletter - Autumn Term Issue

### Senior Leadership Team Notices continued...

So that the new academic year gets off to a positive start could we remind parents and students about our expectations, these help us all to concentrate on teaching and learning. Our Uniform policy is set out below for your information. Can we remind you that extreme hair colour and facial piercings will not be permitted in school. Mobile phones are not allowed in school and will have to be confiscated, even the new shiny ones that students may have received as a Christmas present!

### UNIFORM POLICY

Part of becoming a member of Wreake Valley Academy is to wear the correct uniform everyday and to bring a **complete change of clothing** for Physical Education and Dance lessons. Students must only wear:-

<b>BLAZER</b>	<b>Navy blue</b> with integral School badge on front pocket – to be worn at all times.
<b>SCHOOL SHIRT</b>	<b>White</b> plain school style shirt, buttoned through to the collar. Plain white T-shirt may be worn under the shirt.
<b>TIE</b>	Official School tie with neat knot.
<b>TROUSERS</b>	<b>Mid grey</b> plain school style.
<b>SKIRT</b>	<b>Mid grey</b> plain school style, knee length.
<b>JUMPER (optional)</b>	(When worn) <b>Mid grey</b> 'V'- neck plain with School logo only.
<b>SOCKS</b>	<b>Plain black, grey, white or navy.</b>
<b>TIGHTS</b>	<b>Plain black, natural, grey or navy.</b>
<b>FOOTWEAR</b>	<b>Plain black</b> only.
<b>PE KIT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- School badged PE</li> <li>- Black/navy shorts/jogging bottoms</li> <li>- Black/navy sweatshirt</li> <li>- Black/white or navy sport socks</li> <li>- Change of trainers.</li> </ul>
<b>JEWELLERY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Small sleepers or stud earrings only.</li> <li>- For health and safety reasons all jewellery may need to be removed for PE</li> <li>- No facial piercings are allowed in school</li> <li>- Narrow plain belts in black may be worn</li> <li>- Subtle make up only.</li> </ul>
<b>HAIRSTYLES</b>	- No exaggerated colours.
<b>NAIL VARNISH</b>	- Clear or pale pink nail polish only is allowed.
<b>3G PITCH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For KS3 PE and KS4 Core PE lessons, students are advised to wear moulded stud boots however flat soled trainers are allowed.</li> <li>- For extra-curricular sports, when representing the school, and for GCSE PE lessons moulded stud boots are compulsory.</li> </ul>

Students should present themselves at school dressed in a smart and modest manner with no extremes of clothes, footwear or hair. Wreake Valley Academy promotes a productive and purposeful ethos and the school uniform is part of this. The Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Year are the final arbiters for all issues concerning uniform



## English Department

**What terrific students! What wonderful staff! What a fantastic term!**

The last three months in the English and Media department have been exceptionally rewarding and busy, a few of the key moments and activities are summarised below:

**Introduction of knowledge organisers:** This has involved testing all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 with 15 questions each week on the topic they have been studying in class. The feedback from students and parents has been very positive particularly due to putting every students' results onto 'Show My Homework' each week (although not all students have been keen on the impact of this!). One of the reasons for the success of the knowledge organisers is perhaps because parents were emailed with a copy of each organiser and we really appreciate all the ensuing breakfast and dinner conversations we know have taken place about novels, plays, quotations, contextual factors and English terminology. It's been highly rewarding seeing the information from the knowledge organisers included in the assessments and mock GCSE exams completed by the students.

The knowledge organisers have now been rolled out to Years 12 and 13 in The Bradgate Sixth Form, for Media students as well as English students.

**Wreake Valley Writers:** This is a half-termly publication showcasing students' written work. The first issue included work by 18 students across all year groups. The second issue is full of even more exceptional and interesting writing and will be emailed to all parents in the last week of term.

**Year 11:** We are determined to enable our 124 fabulous Year 11 students to meet or beat their target GCSE grades in both English Language and English Literature. One of the measures we put in place to help enable this, was to run 'The English Revision Café' for the four weeks leading up to the mock exams. The turn-out was tremendous with about half the Year 11's opting to stay for an extra hour after school. In addition to seeing the students' positive attitude it was lovely that so many staff helped out – we even had the superfast and helpful PE department handing out trays of biscuits and mugs of hot chocolate!

Ms G Lovegrove Head of English Department

## Humanities Department

### A Level trip to Hunstanton

The A Level Geographers had a fantastic day's field work in Norfolk. They visited the amazing red and white cliffs which are unique in the world. The students participated in a number of field work activities which will prepare them for future coursework. Our highlight of the trip was fish and chips on the sea front in Wells.

### Top 10 Achieving Students in House



#### HAWKINS

- ♦ Mia Lees 62
- ♦ Callum Stuart 62
- ♦ Henry Atkins 51
- ♦ Indiana Palmer 39
- ♦ Ruby Suffolk 36
- ♦ Matthew Robinson 35
- ♦ Zeke Barnett 34
- ♦ Paloma Regester 34
- ♦ William Bonnington 33
- ♦ Eva Kilby 33



The Red and White Cliffs





## Humanities Department Continued...

### Amnesty International Youth Group

In the New Year the Humanities Department is launching the 'Amnesty International Youth Group'. Amnesty International is the world's leading human rights organisation, campaigning against injustice and inequality everywhere. We are very excited that our talented sixth form students will be leading this group and all year groups can get involved by taking part in our fundraising. You can also promote current issues that members of society are facing with their human rights being ignored. Watch out for lots of colourful banners and even some freebies (including some very cool badges!).

Know your rights and join a powerful movement!

### Character Development

In Personal Development this term students have been studying a new unit of work called 'Character Development' which focusses on developing five key skills within students. These five key skills are known as LORIC (Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative, Communication). Developing these core skills will form a basis for students to be successful in all of their other subjects as well as outside of the school environment.

The purpose of Character Development is threefold: To develop the students as people – especially the qualities that should make the students successful in school, society and the world of work; to give students the tools they will require in a future career and to contribute to the employability; and to increase confidence within students that they have the skills required and to be able to demonstrate they have the skills required by referring to evidence.



Rubiks Cube Club

## Maths Department

It has been a very busy start to the new academic year in the Maths Department.

We have welcomed 3 new members of staff: Mr Errington (KS5 Coordinator), Ms Holyman (2<sup>nd</sup> in Department) and Mrs Williams.

The Year 11's have well and truly got into the revision mind-set with many students attending the weekly revision sessions every Tuesday after school. Alongside side this we have a number of students who are attending our booster and master classes and most students in Miss Price's class are now working towards an additional GCSE in the form of Further Maths.



## Newsletter - Autumn Term Issue



Cinema Trip



Christmas Dinner Ticket

## Trips/Wise Pay Information for Parents

All students are required to have a cashless catering card as part of their student ID.

For any students that have lost a card, a replacement card can be issued from the Main Office for the price of £3. Please may we remind students and parents to top up regularly to ensure that your child always has sufficient funds to make a meal purchase so their account doesn't fall into arrears. If you have any difficulties topping up via the WisePay website please contact the Finance Team at Wreake Valley.

### Currently on WisePay:

The Christmas Odeon Cinema Trip to Loughborough £8.50 -**FILLING UP FAST!**

Christmas Dinner £2.75

Paris Trip - **FULL**

Escape Rooms - Sixth Form Students Only £16.15

Year 10 Work Experience - £57 through LEBC or £50 Self Placement

Year 7 DT Material Contribution £15 (covers 3 years)

A range of textbooks and revision guides

## Senior Leadership Team Notices

### A reminder of our Severe Weather and School Closure Procedure

**Early Closure** - If the school needed to close early whilst the School is in session, due to inclement weather conditions, a text message will be sent to parents where possible and an announcement put on the School's website. Pupils who would be collected from School or those unable to gain access to their homes will be managed by the School until our normal dismissal time. Those travelling by school buses will be transported off the site as soon as the buses are available.

**Closure** - If the school needed to close following adverse weather conditions overnight, a decision would be taken as early as possible by the Principal and Chair of Governors which takes into consideration the health and safety and safe access of the pupils and staff and the operation of the school. Parents, pupils and staff will be informed via text message, announcements on local radio stations and the School's website.

**Re-opening** - Please assume that the school will re-open the following day unless you receive another text message advising of a further closure.

**Please note that as there may be a high volume of schools trying to get through to the radio station, it may take some time before you hear any announcement.**



3G Pitch



Tennis Courts



Theatre



Sports Hall &amp; Gym



Sports Hall &amp; Gym

### 3G Pitch/Facilities Hire

We have facilities for hire to suit a multitude of requirements whether you need a classroom for meetings or training sessions or a dance studio for exercise classes. The 3G AstroTurf football pitch is available for community use 7 days a week. Alongside this we also have available to hire a wide range of grass football pitches, ideal for Saturday and Sunday football teams and practices.

Wreake Valley Academy are fortunate to have both a Sports Hall and Gym available for hire. The two indoor spaces can accommodate a variety of activities. This consists of basketball, netball, indoor tennis (nets provided), 4 badminton courts per hall (nets provided) and archery. We have four re-painted full size tennis courts available to hire.

Our open spaced Dance Studio is ideal for cheerleading, tae-kwon-do, keep fit classes and dance / drama workshops. The Dance Studio is a good space for smaller group sessions therefore creating a better interaction / learning environment for individuals. We also have a wide array of different classroom sizes, across the school that can be allocated for your specific requirements such as meetings, conferences, or training sessions.

#### Groups and Activities for the wider community at WVA

Walking Football/ Netball for 50+

Back to Netball - Adult Netball Monday 7pm –8pm

Fosse Archery - Tuesday 7pm– 9pm and Saturday 1pm—4pm

Northfield Tennis—Juniors to Adults - Daily

Syston Town Football Club - Wednesday 6pm– 9pm and Saturday Morning 9am – 11am

Riverside Junior Football Club - Wednesday 5pm-6pm and Saturday 11am –12pm

QDC Cheer Leading– Tuesday and Thursday 6pm—9pm

**For further information please contact Ian Harrison**, Community Facilities Coordinator, Wreake Valley Academy, [Ian.Harrison@wvacademy.org](mailto:Ian.Harrison@wvacademy.org)

### Year 7 Social Action

A small group of Year 7's have been involved with a social action project aimed at giving young people the opportunity to make a positive difference in their community. The social action project worked to integrate three of Leicester City in the Community projects, bringing primary and secondary school projects together with the Silver Foxes from the Then, Now and Forever Project at the King Power stadium.

Our first event saw our Year 7s lead Halloween craft activities for the primary school children and the Silver Foxes. They were incredibly helpful and supportive, delivering drinks to the older participants and assisting in the arts and crafts activities. They are now planning their own Christmas themed crafts for our next event at the King Power Stadium where the Silver Foxes will be presented with Christmas hampers, enjoy homemade mince pies and led through our activities. Hannah, 7MRE, said that being involved in this project gave her the chance to “do something I have a passion for and the experience has brought me out of myself a bit more and given me the confidence to speak to different people in the community”. The Christmas Event will be filmed by Match of the Day so watch this space for an update on when this will be broadcast on BBC Match of the Day.



### Top 10 Achieving Students in House



#### ATTENBOROUGH

- ♦ William Proffitt 78
- ♦ Ella Copeland 77
- ♦ Isabelle Walczak 77
- ♦ Hanya Correia 71
- ♦ Ryan Bradley 71
- ♦ Hannah Giles 69
- ♦ Dhruv Parmar 69
- ♦ Ala Ojari 68
- ♦ Ella Freestone 66
- ♦ Jacob Harrison 61

### Maths Department Continued...

We have been very impressed with how many of our students are taking to the 1980's retro toy, the Rubik's cube. So much so, that we were asked by the students if we could start a Rubik's cube lunchtime club. Miss Holyman, a self-confessed Rubik's cube guru has given up her time to hold this club every Thursday in room 221.

After the Christmas holidays it is just as busy in the Maths department.

Year 11 revision will continue on a Tuesday and we will be officially launching the PIXL Maths app which will be an essential revision tool in the build up to GCSE Mathematics exams, the first one of which is on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May.

In February we have the Maths challenges starting for Years 9, 10 and 11, and in April for Years 7 and 8. This is an ideal opportunity for our students to pit their Maths wit against other Mathematicians from around the country.

### Science Department

The Winter term has been productive in Science with students working hard. Older students have completed mock examinations in the lead up to Christmas, while all students have completed numerous assessments throughout the term.

A large number of students are becoming more independent with their learning, which is seen in their usage of Seneca Learning. Any student can set up an account by logging onto [www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com). Students in all year groups have access to Kerboodle, which allows access to the online textbooks and resources to support their work. If students have problems logging on, please ask them to speak to their class teacher to reset their account.

As Christmas rapidly approaches we thought it would be interesting to share some science behind some of the ideas;

#### MISTLETOE

Mistletoe, *Viscus album*, is a hemiparasite. The green leaves show it can make some of its own food, but it also steals nutrients and minerals from its host. This means mistletoe doesn't need to reach the ground to get essential nutrients, but can live high up in the trees. Mistletoe is found mostly on apple trees, but they can thrive on lime, poplars or hawthorn trees. Mistletoe was once seen as a symbol of fertility because it remained green after the leaves had fallen. Could this be the reason behind the tradition of kissing beneath it?





## Science Department Continued...

### RUDOLPH'S RED NOSE

Why exactly was Rudolph's nose so bright? One theory is Rudolph simply had a bad cold! Reindeers noses contain lots of membranes which act as heat exchangers meaning air is rapidly warmed as it enters the body and cooled as it leaves. This helps the reindeer retain heat and reduce moisture. However, it is this moist and warm environment that becomes home to many parasites and bacteria, which may well have become infected and given Rudolph the appearance of a bright red nose.

### CHRISTMAS STAR?

Some people believe it was an exploding star. A supernova would certainly be visible by both day and night, but supernovae leave behind distinctive remains which can be dated and there is no suitable candidate for the Christmas Star. Others believe it could be a planetary alignment as when Venus, Jupiter, Mars and Saturn cluster together in the sky they are extremely noticeable. We can work out the retrospective orbits of the planets with great accuracy and there was no suitable conjunction in the periods in which Herod and Pilate ruled in Judea. The other source might be a comet.

### BRUSSELS SPROUTS

The Brussels sprout is almost as much a tradition of Christmas dinners as the roast potato. They are packed with nutrients such as vitamins A and C, folic acid and fibre; great for the wintertime when fewer green vegetables grow. But, whatever you do, don't overcook them as this releases a chemical that gives a sulphurous smell putting a lot of people off this humble veg. Loving them or loathing them may be down to your genes. A chemical found in sprouts tastes very bitter to people with one version of a gene, while others carrying a different version can't taste it at all.



Wreake Valley Students  
enjoying Gardening Club



Open Evening Activities in  
Science



Library Advent Calendar



## Open Evenings

Autumn Term started off with the Gardening Club tending their homegrown marigolds in the school garden in preparation for the Main School Open Evening which saw us welcome over 200 families to the event. Over a quarter of our students came along to help out on the evening and were all excellent ambassadors for the school. Many parents commented on how helpful, knowledgeable and confident our students were and were very complimentary of their conduct and behaviour. We were very proud of them all.

## Library News

The library has had a very busy Autumn Term. We started with a Scholastic Book Fair in September which was very successful. The commission from the sales enabled us to buy some new fiction books for the library.

The new books were processed by our team of Library helpers, some new to the school and some who have been helpers since last academic year. Student helpers assist with shelving books, preparing new books and displays, as well as helping other students use the library and its resources.

## Support for exams

As well as providing a space to study and work we also sell revision guides for students in Years 10 – 13. These can be paid for in cash in the library or on Wisepay through the school website. We sell revision guides and workbooks for English, Maths and Science – full details are available on the website and in the library.

We also have reference copies of these to use in the library when you don't have your copy with you.

## Advent

We have an Advent calendar in the library this year comprising of new books for the library. Some are newly published titles, new copies of popular books, reference books for browsing in the library and new authors. From the second of December we will be asking staff and students to open a "window" each day. Books will be available to borrow or enjoy in the library as soon as they have been opened.

## Creative writing competition

'Young Writers UK' are challenging for students aged 11-18 to write a thriller in 100 words or less on the theme of Hunted. Full details are available in the library and on their website - <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-4>. Entries are already coming in and we will display the top entries in the library as well as awarding school prizes for all entries.



## Dates for Your Diary

Month	Event
June	4th Jun - Year 7 Parents' Evening
	1st-5th Jun - Year 10 STAR Reviews
	5th Jun - Year 7 Parents' Evening
	8th Jun Year - Year 10 Tutor Reports
	w/c 15th Jun - KS3 STAR reviews
	w/c 15th Jun - Assessments
	w/c 22nd Jun - Tutor Reports
	24th –26th Jun -Trip to France
	29th Jun - Change 4 Life Day
July	1st-2nd Jul - New Year 7 Induction Day
	1st Jul - New Year 7 Welcome Evening
	Mon 6th Jul - Summer Concert and Art Exhibition
	Tues 7th Jul - Whole School Activity Day
	Wed 8th Jul - Whole School Sports Day
	<b>Friday 10th July - School Closes for the Summer Holidays</b>

## Exams, Reports and STAR Interviews

This term Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for their mock exams which took place over two weeks in November. Students were challenged to complete past GCSE examination papers and each exam was organised to mirror the routines and expectations of the actual GCSE exams in May/June next year. Class teachers have been using these mock exam papers to feedback areas for improvement. We know they will have benefited enormously from this experience and hopefully they will feel even more prepared when they complete the second set of mock exams in March 2020. To further support Year 11 with their next steps we arranged a STAR interview for every student with their tutor. This gave them the chance to discuss their plans for the future as well as helping them to reflect on their progress so far. The term will end with a number of sessions in the final week which will give them additional opportunities to meet with employers and consider what is required to be successful in a variety of careers.



## Creative & Visual Arts Department

### Top 10 Achieving Students in House



RAI

- ♦ Talia Clarke 86
- ♦ Amy Day 85
- ♦ Thomas Calow 79
- ♦ Dyani Dattani 77
- ♦ Benjamin Altobelli 69
- ♦ Megan Brand 67
- ♦ Chris Palmer 62
- ♦ Georgia Spare 62
- ♦ Laura Wilday 62
- ♦ Angus Pirie-Scott 59

Year 9 Girls STEM Day

## Year 9 Girls Autonomous Electric Vehicles Challenge

At the end of October the Year 9 girls were selected to participate in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Challenge Day in order to introduce them to the world of engineering and the huge variety of enjoyable skills and careers that fall within this area.

The day involved working in small teams to design, make, develop and test autonomous electric vehicles (self-driving cars). At the end of the day the students had to present their ideas to the rest of the participants. The students undertook different roles in their teams giving them the opportunity to learn how to work together as an effective unit, this introduced them to roles such as; Design Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Computer Scientist and Enterprise Manager.

We are very thankful for this fantastic day. The opportunity to try something new and participate in teams in a way which they may not have done before was invaluable. Many of the students were introduced to the foundations of computer programming and integrating their instructions into a mechanically reliable and robust miniature vehicle. Students learned how to use sensors to act a inputs and programmed their vehicles to respond to its surroundings. Although challenging, the students persevered well and achieved some well-designed and functioning outcomes.

We worked alongside the Smallpiece Trust who are an educational charity that inspires young people to pursue careers in science and engineering through events and workshops. You can find out more about them at [www.smallpiecetrust.org](http://www.smallpiecetrust.org). Many thanks to all those who participated in this event.

## Year 8 Shell Energy Quest

On the 27<sup>th</sup> November half of Year 8 took part in a session which introduced them to the engineered world, helped them get to grips with different ways of generating energy (in renewable and non-renewable ways) and gave them the opportunity to build and test a long distance, light weight, electric vehicle powered by a fast-charging super capacitor. Funded by Shell and run in conjunction with Tomorrow's Engineers the challenge day introduced students to the concept that engineering is more than fixing cars and grubby hands. Students saw that engineers are practical problem solvers who apply scientific knowledge to real world situations in a myriad of different ways such as fashion design, aerospace, food production and make-up (chemical engineering!).

Those who took part were given the opportunity to think through how they would apply renewable energy generation within their localities. They were all then invited to take part in the Shell 'Bright Ideas Challenge' which is designed to spark young people's curiosity in science and engineering. The competition invites young people to use their creativity, problem solving, teamwork and STEM skills to devise innovative solutions that could power cities of the future. If they wish to participate students should discuss it with Mr Wright.







## Creative & Visual Arts Department



Christmas Card Winner  
Molly Latham 9KPo

### Wreake Valley Academy Presents



School Production  
Made In Dagenham



Year 8 Shell Energy Day

### Christmas Card Competition

Wreake Valley Students were invited to enter a school wide competition to create this years Wreake Valley Christmas Card. Students from Year 7 to Year 10 gave entries and we had a range of designs from Cat Christmas to Elves under the tree!

Though it was a tough competition, the winner was chosen as Molly Latham from 9KP who has created a beautiful stag adorned with Christmas lights. Well done to all who entered and congratulations Molly!

### School Production

We are pleased to announce that this year's musical production will be 'Made In Dagenham'. A musical Inspired by a true story and based on the hit movie, it is an uplifting British musical comedy about friendship, love and the importance of fighting for what is right. Rehearsals are well underway with over 70 students involved in a variety of roles both on stage and backstage. The performances will be 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> February @ 7:30. Tickets will be on sale in January.

### London Trip 2019

On the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 20 drama students from Year 10-13 set off on a trip to London. Meeting at Leicester train Station, we were all very excited to be heading to London to work with professional performers within the Arts world in order to develop our own skills and understanding of performance techniques.

We arrived at London St. Pancras at 10:15am. There we were greeted by our LTT Guide, who had had performed as Eddie in Blood Brothers on and off for around 29 years! This was beneficial for all the GCSE students who are studying the play because he was open to answer any questions they had from an actor's perspective, as well as giving tips on how to be a successful performer.

After a long, refreshing walk from the train station, we arrived at Travelodge, which is where we would be staying overnight. We dropped our luggage off and headed straight to Covent Garden, where we were given 2 hours of free time to grab some lunch and have a wander. We, personally, went to Maxwell's, where we enjoyed a nice meal, which filled us until tea time.

Once our free time had come to an end, our tour guide walked us to Pineapple Dance Studios, where we would be taking part in a vocal workshop with a profession performer. After doing a short vocal warmup, we started focusing on a song from the musical 'Everyone's Talking about Jamie', called Ugly in this ugly world. We were split into groups, so that each could sing a different harmony part. I was personally singing the soprano harmony, with a couple of other girls. Once we had completed all of the sections of the song, we did a full run through, adding all the emotion the song needed. We all really enjoyed this, and it was an amazing opportunity.



## Dates for Your Diary

Month	Event
December	Mon 16th Dec- Christmas Concert for Parents 7pm—8pm
	Thurs 19th Dec - Carol Concert
	Thurs 19th Dec - Christmas Dinner
	Fri 20th Dec - Cinema Trip
	<b>Friday 20th December - School Closes for Christmas at 12.30</b>
January	<b>Teacher Day - 6th Jan 2020</b>
	<b>Tuesday 7th January – School Opens for Spring Term 2020</b>
	30th Jan - Year 11 Parents' Evening
February	w/c 3rd Feb - KS3 Reports and STAR reviews
	10th - 14th Feb - KS4 Reports and STAR Reviews
	12th/13th/14th Feb - School Production of Made In Dagenham
	<b>Half Term – Monday 17th to Friday 21st February</b>
	27th Feb - Year 9 Pathways Evening
March	2nd - 6th Mar - Year 11 Mocks
	w/c 9th Mar- Science Week
	12th Mar - Year 8 Parents' Evening
	30th Mar - 3rd April Year 11 STAR reviews
April	<b>Friday 3rd April—School Closes for Easter Holidays</b>
	<b>Monday 20th April – School Opens for Summer Term 2020</b>
	20th April - Year 11 Tutor Reports
	29th April - 5th May - Student Book Fayre
May	<b>Friday 8th May – May Day to commemorate 75th Anniversary of VE Day (please note change to usual May Day)</b>
	<b>Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May</b>





## Student Successes

Shweta Sharma 11MSh, one of the longest serving students of the WVA Charity Council was recently appointed as a Youth Ambassador for LOROS following her application, interview and presentation to LOROS staff regarding her vision of how she would carry out the role, including within the school. She will begin with a meeting at LOROS on 18<sup>th</sup> December. LOROS are then taking their Youth Ambassadors to an event near Southampton with other Youth Ambassadors. We are incredibly proud of Shweta and have no doubt that she will be an asset to this fantastic local charity that supports so many families.

## Principals Lunch

Wreake Valley Academy are very proud of our students and like to celebrate their successes. Every term, staff vote for two students from each year group that have made an outstanding contribution to the school or community, or for achievement whether it be academic or otherwise. Students enjoy a lunch of pizza and cake with a member or members of our Senior Leadership Team where they discuss and celebrate accomplishments.

## Boyz 2 Men Group

Our Boyz 2 Men group visited the King Power Stadium and received a tour from Matt Piper, Leicester City legend and BBC Radio Leicester presenter. Whilst visiting all the stadium sights, the students were able to ask Matt questions about his career and the different careers involved in football and the stadium itself.



Boyz 2 Men Group

## Student of the Week Award

Every week, each tutor nominates a student from their tutor group. The reasons for a nomination could be due to such things as hard work in lessons, helping out in a charity event, an activity they've excelled in either in a school club, or outside of school. These nominations are then passed to each Year Groups Head of Year who then chooses the winner. 5 KitKats are then given out each week, one to a student in each year group, by a member of Senior Leadership Team. We want to celebrate success, achievements, hard work & a positive attitude across the school.



## Creative & Visual Arts Department

### Creative & Visual Arts Art Gallery



More art work by our Christmas Card Competition Winner Molly Latham

### London Trip 2019 Continued...

After the workshop, we walked back to our hotel and had around an hour to get ready for the night ahead. Once we were all ready, we set off to Pizza Hut, where we had an all you can eat pizza buffet. From there, we made our way to the Apollo Theatre, where we watched the west-end musical, 'Everybody's Talking about Jamie'. The show was absolutely amazing, and brought joy to the audience.

Although we'd had a fantastic day, that we never wanted to end, we were all very tired, and so headed back to our hotel for a good nights sleep.

The next day we were all up bright and early, and after a filling breakfast, we were ready for our final day. We left the hotel early in the morning, and walked straight to the Fortune Theatre, where we took part in an acting workshop on the stage of 'The Woman in Black'. This was an amazing experience for everyone, especially those hoping to perform on a stage like that in the future, and it also helped us learn how tension can be created.

After this, we were taken on a Theatre land walk with our guide. This allowed us to see and learn about some of the most famous theatres in London's West-End. This was really educational and a great opportunity to see which shows are at which theatre.

We were then given more free time in Covent Garden, this time we went to Pizza Express. It was another lovely meal, which filled us up until we arrived home.

From there, we walked back to the Fortune Theatre in order to watch 'The Woman in Black' on stage. The show was quite chilling, and it was amazing to watch professional actors on the stage that we, only hours before, had been stood upon.

After the show, we headed back to the hotel, where we collected our luggage, before making our way back to the train station for our journey home. Here we had to say goodbye to our tour guide, and thank him for the wonderful time we had spent with him. Finally, we made our journey home back to Leicester, before being collected by our parents and taken home.

Overall, I believe that the trip was an experience I'll never forget, and one I will treasure for the rest of my life. The professionals we were able to meet gave us some amazing advice on following your dreams, and working hard in order to get there, as well as sharing their experiences within the industry, which can help us in the future.

By Aimee Baker & Zack Herbert, Year 10 students



## Top 10 Achieving Students in House



### TOWNSEND

- ♦ Kane Morris 73
- ♦ Spencer Perrin 73
- ♦ Samuel Chapman 70
- ♦ Katie-Mae Shaw 70
- ♦ Harry Allen-Smith 69
- ♦ Rosie Betts 68
- ♦ Callum Jarram 70
- ♦ Shri Vekaria 65
- ♦ Zoe Morbey 64
- ♦ Darragh Smith 66

## Languages

### European Day of Languages

This year, once again, Wreake Valley Academy joined other schools in the UK and in 45 countries across Europe to celebrate languages and cultural diversity on the European Day of Languages. Students took part in an inter-tutor quiz during registration time to test their knowledge of countries and capital cities. Year 7 pupils got involved in an exciting Treasure Hunt, actively looking for clues outside classrooms and offices to reveal some interesting and fun linguistic facts about teachers and staff at the school. Year 7 pupils were also invited to take part in a food sampling session where they tasted food from around the world and had to guess the country each food came from. Pupils enjoyed French Camembert cheese, Greek taramasalata dip, Polish plum butter and German smoked cheese. Most pupils tried some new food and some were very adventurous, with only a few crumbs left by the end. Unsurprisingly, American jelly beans proved very popular!



Students tasting foods from around Europe for European Day of Languages

## Top 10 Achieving Students in House



### JEFFREYS

- ♦ Siyenna Reid 83
- ♦ Manas Kotak 82
- ♦ Eliemae Reed-Bray 82
- ♦ Mischa Esposito 78
- ♦ Gautami Joshi 76
- ♦ Jack Tramaseur 75
- ♦ Scarlett Morris 72
- ♦ Thomas Hall 67
- ♦ Joshua Webster 64
- ♦ Benjamin Crooks 62

## New Wreake Valley Bus Route for Students

Bradgate Education Partnership Trust have confirmed that from September 2020 a new bus service will be in operation to transport students from Rothley and Sileby villages to and from Wreake Valley Academy.

Gareth Nelmes, CEO of the Trust commented 'The number of students applying to come to Wreake Valley Academy from the Rothley and Sileby areas has warranted a new bus route to be provided. The flexible service will allow parents to purchase either weekly return passes or individual daily passes to suit their needs. The bus route will give parents greater choice for their child's Secondary School option and we are excited to be able to offer this service for students and parents'.

Parents who would like further information should contact Rachael Boyall at Wreake Valley Academy on 0116 264 1080 or email [admin@wvacademy.org](mailto:admin@wvacademy.org)



## Transition from Primary school to Wreake Valley

During this Autumn Term Year 6 pupils and their parents have been making the important decisions on starting secondary school. We had a fabulous Open Evening which was our best yet in terms of attendance and visitor feedback. The Wreake Valley student helpers were an asset to the school and parents and pupils enjoyed the opportunity of having escorted tours around the school and being able to ask questions about being a student at Wreake.

We have visited many of our local primary schools this term and planned exciting opportunities and events for Year 5 and 6 pupils. These include masterclasses, Science whiz bang assemblies, Alien space craft landing, watching the school production, sports festivals and many more. Some of these events will be hosted at Wreake Valley and supported by our Year 12 students. These will provide a good opportunity for pupils to familiarise themselves with Wreake Valley and for our staff and students to get to know the Year 5 and 6 pupils. Other events involve our current Year 7 students running small group workshops with Year 5 pupils at the primary schools. This is a great opportunity for primary pupils to find out more about starting at secondary school.





## Careers

The following Careers and Aspiration events have taken place this Autumn term and we have more exciting opportunities planned for next term. There will also be more events organised throughout the year to allow all students at Wreake Valley Academy the chance to think about their future aspirations.

<b>Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Oct:</b>	Year 9 STEM challenge day
<b>Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov:</b>	Year 9,10,11 trip to the NEC for WORLD SKILLS UK LIVE event
<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Nov:</b>	Year 10,11 Oxford and Cambridge university information morning at Rushy Mead Academy
<b>Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Nov:</b>	Year 12 Oxford and Cambridge university information morning at Rushy Mead Academy
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> Dec:</b>	Year 11 speed networking event, Higher level Apprenticeship assembly, 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec: RAF Apprenticeship assembly.
<b>Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Jan:</b>	Music and Drama Careers event Year 9,10,11 at The Curve Theatre
<b>Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Feb:</b>	Science GCSE Science Live lectures at the Symphony Hall Birmingham
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup> March:</b>	Year 10 Work experience week.

We have also introduced a Careers online service called KUDOS that all our students have access to. Its an online tool that should inspire your child to think about suitable careers and the steps they need to take to get there, all year groups will access the website during the year as part of our personal development lessons. For more information have a look at the following link:

<https://kudos.cascaid.co.uk/#/>

In addition to the above we have introduced 1:1 careers interviews for our Year 11 students. Students can make an appointment via Mr Parkinson, Tutors can refer students for a careers meeting or parents and guardians can make appointment for their child by emailing:

[Geoff.parkinson@wvacademy.org](mailto:Geoff.parkinson@wvacademy.org)

If you would like to contribute or have ideas on how to develop our Careers and Aspirations opportunities please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.

Mr Geoff Parkinson  
Aspirations and Careers Coordinator



Year 9 Girls STEM Day



## B6—Bradgate Sixth Form

This term has been a really exciting time for students in Bradgate Sixth Form! Year 13 students have now completed their UCAS applications, with many students applying to Russell Group Universities. It has been fantastic seeing all of the courses and universities students have applied to and we look forward to sharing with you their destinations and courses. De Montfort University and The University of Nottingham have delivered seminars in our theatre about what happens next to their application and what different offers mean. Both Year 13 students and their parents also attended a session, delivered by the University of Nottingham, about student finance which we know many found extremely informative and very valuable.

Over the next few weeks, students who are applying for apprenticeships will take part in an Apprenticeship Workshop and will have careers interviews through Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC). During these interviews students will receive guidance on how to complete apprenticeship applications and will be given assistance to produce a professional CV. We are very excited and proud to see the aspirations our students have and we wish them all the very best in their interviews.

In August we welcomed our new cohort of Year 12 students into Bradgate Sixth Form and students have fully involved themselves into life at Bradgate Sixth Form. In September all Year 12 students took part in a session ran by The University of Nottingham called 'Ambition Nottingham and Study Skills' which gave students a brilliant insight into how to develop key skills needed for their A Level studies.

We have been able to offer six Year 12 students the opportunity to be CAB (Citizen Advice Bureau) Ambassadors and these students will be working with the CAB over the academic year. We look forward to updating you on their work soon.

Last week ten Year 12 students went to an Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge University) information session, delivered by Amber Cuttill from Pembroke College Cambridge and Luke Maws St Edmund Hall Oxford, where they learnt about how Oxford and Cambridge universities differ from other UK universities, their expectations and their application process. The session inspired our students and broadened their knowledge of what further study is available to them once they have completed their A Levels.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate both Harley and Luca in Year 12 who have been successful in applying for the 'Pathways to Law Programme' which is run by the University of Leicester and The Sutton Trust. This is a programme that looks to inspire and support students to explore a range of careers in law and build essential knowledge, skills and confidence required to go on to higher education and the world of work. All Pathways to Law students are offered real-life experience, with a work placement, and mentoring and networking opportunities.

Finally, in November we had over 100 students and parents visit Bradgate Sixth Form on our Open Evening. It was great to see so many students from both Wreake Valley, The Roundhill Academy and other local schools coming to see what opportunities we can provide for their post 16 studies. We have already received numerous applications to join us in August 2020 which is fantastic!

If you have any questions about Bradgate Sixth Form then please do not hesitate in contacting us.

Year 11 students can apply now to join Bradgate Sixth Form on our website: <https://www.bradgatesixthform.com/> or through Positive Steps @ 16: <https://ps16.co.uk/>

