

Wreake Valley Academy



Dates for Your Diary

Month	Event
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
	Half Term – Monday 17th to Friday 21st February
March	Thurs 27th Feb - Year 9 Pathways Evening
	2nd - 6th Mar - Year 11 Mocks
	w/c 9th Mar- Science Week
	Thurs 12th Mar - Year 8 Parents' Evening
April	30th Mar - 3rd April Year 11 STAR reviews
	Friday 3rd April—School Closes for Easter Holidays
	Monday 20th April – School Opens for Summer Term 2020
	w/c 20th April - Year 11 Tutor Reports
May	29th April - 5th May - Student Book Fayre
	Friday 8th May – May Day to commemorate 75th Anniversary of VE Day (please note change to usual May Day)
	Half Term Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May
	Thurs 4th Jun - Year 7 Parents' Evening
June	1st-5th Jun - Year 10 STAR Reviews
	Mon 8th Jun Year - Year 10 Tutor Reports
	w/c 15th Jun - KS3 STAR reviews
	w/c 15th Jun - Assessments
July	w/c 22nd Jun - Tutor Reports
	24th –26th Jun -Trip to France
	Mon 29th Jun - Change 4 Life Day
	1st-2nd Jul - New Year 7 Induction Day
July	Wed 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
Friday 10th July - School Closes for the Summer Holidays	

Jan/Feb 2020

Wreake Valley Academy



Newsletter - Spring Term Issue

In this issue:

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- Year 11 Success Week
- Being Brilliant Club
- Dates for your diary
- Bradgate Sixth Form
- Application Deadline
- Year 11 Revision Timetable
- Department News
- Charity Council news

A Message from the Acting Principal

Welcome to the Spring Term Issue of the Wreake Valley Newsletter. Whilst this has been a shorter half term than the one before Christmas, the school has never been busier!

Back in December, Year 11 took part in a Year 11 Success Week which involved them meeting with local and national employers and attending our first ever Year 11 Conference. This term has seen the launch of our Being Brilliant Club with Year 11 to help them prepare for their GCSEs in May and we are impressed with the commitment and hard work that students are showing.

Elsewhere around the school students in all year groups have been busy working hard. In this issue you can read about the ongoing work of the Charity Council to help raise money for Loros. The school sports teams have been taking part in local fixtures and in this issue you can find out how they have been getting on. We are all waiting in anticipation for the opening night of the school production 'Made in Dagenham' which runs from 12th-14th February. If you have not done so yet, please do book your tickets as this is an event not to be missed! We are also very excited that Year 10 Students are getting ready for their work experience in March!

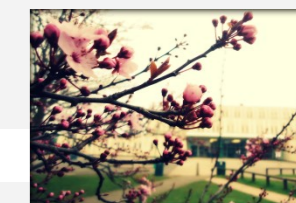
As part of the wider curriculum we continue to welcome groups and visitors into the school to work with the students and in this issue we can update you about visits from the fire brigade, the RAF, the organisation Words over Weapons and the Traffic management department at Leicestershire Police.

As always we have included a section on dates for your diary and for a further reminder of school policies on uniform, piercings, phones and lateness, please see our school website <https://www.wvacademy.org/parents/>

Please do get in touch with your child's Head of Year if you need more information.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support.

Nicola Morland –Acting Principal



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.



For more
information on
KS4 & Revision
visit our
website:



www.wvacademy.org

Year 11 Exam Support

Dear Year 11 Parents.

I am so pleased with the effort that our Year 11 pupils are making in preparation for the summer exams. I have seen healthy attendance figures in revision sessions and the Being Brilliant Club, there is a good feeling of positivity and productivity in the building. In addition, we have just had a very successful Parents' Evening for Year 11 with the highest parent attendance recorded to date. I would just like to say a huge thank you for your attendance and your comments are always appreciated.

The school wants to make sure, we do everything possible to support your child in achieving the very best outcomes in the summer. We are going to launch a new strategy; this will involve completing exam questions during registration activities. These questions have been carefully selected by the Heads of Departments and form a crucial level of support for your child. The questions have been selected based on the analysis carried out from assessments and mock examinations. In order for your child to benefit from this strategy, we will discuss with them, the need for good punctuality and attendance in the remaining weeks. I am therefore asking for your support with this message and to encourage your child to attend every day and to arrive at school on time. The registration activities will start at 8.45am and therefore we expect all pupils to arrive to school at 8.35am.

The timetable for the registration activities are as follows:

All pupils ready to start the questions for 8.45am.

Monday – Assembly (Guidance and support).

Tuesday – maths exam questions.

Wednesday – English exam questions.

Thursday – science exam questions.

Friday – history/geography exam questions.

Thank you for your continued support, it is always recognised and felt by the school.

Mr Naujeer
Assistant Principal.



3G Pitch



Tennis Courts



Theatre



Sports Hall & Gym

To hire our
facilities please
contact:

Ian Harrison
0116 2641080

Sporting Fixtures and Clubs

Futsal - (also known as futsal or footsal) is a variant of association football played on a hard court, smaller than a football pitch, and mainly indoors. It has similarities to five-a-side football. Futsal is played between two teams of five players each, one of whom is the goalkeeper.

We have had 4 teams take part in South Charnwood school tournaments recently. All teams played well and represented the school to the highest standard in both their behaviour and performances. A special well done to the Yr7/8 girls who came 2nd overall having lost a closely fought game to the eventual winners.

Our Year 10 girls played in a futsal tournament at home. The girls won the first game, beating The Roundhill Academy 5-0 in a very convincing win.

More recently the girls have played Martin High school. This was a close match with both sides unable to score. After extra time, it went to penalties, with Martin High saving two penalties, giving them the win. Well done to all the girls involved. Congratulations to all students who took part.

Badminton - Over the last half term we have entered 4 badminton tournaments across KS4 and KS3. Students did extremely well and performed to the best of their abilities. The KS4 boys did brilliantly missing out on first place by just a single point. The Yr7 girls also did themselves and the school very proud as they played against girls from Yr9 in the KS3 tournament and despite losing came away with their heads held high and a smile on their faces. Well done to everyone who represented the school.

Football Foundation Grant

As a football foundation site, we work closely with the Football Association to identify areas to develop our site. This has led us to apply for a grant for additional football goals. We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our grant application, this will allow the purchasing of three brand new sets of football goals for the back playing field. The grant that we have received is a great help towards the total costs. We look forward to installing them for the PE department and the wider community to benefit from them. We would like to thank the Football Foundation for this generous contribution.

New Opportunities For Year 9

Over the past year we have been working closely with South Charnwood Leisure Centre to deliver some Joint work for students and staff.

This term we are taking a group of Year 9 students to the Gym on a Friday lunchtime. During this time they will be working closely with a gym instructor to develop an individual gym programme.

Studies show that exercising on a regular basis helps to improve a number of factors including behaviour, attainment, concentration and both physical and mental health whilst having fun!

We are hoping to build on this and expand our use of the gym over the year.

Ian Harrison Sports Development Officer
Helen Myles Student Support Worker



Some of our happy hamper recipients



Recent Events

In early December, we were very lucky to find one of the beautiful hand knitted "Angels in Syston" decorations attached to a lamppost just outside our school gates, so we welcomed her in. For 2019 our main school Christmas tree had an Anti bullying theme and there the angel took pride of place. Students wrote pledges of what they can do to help make a change towards bullying and these pledges were placed inside a Christmas bauble for all to read.

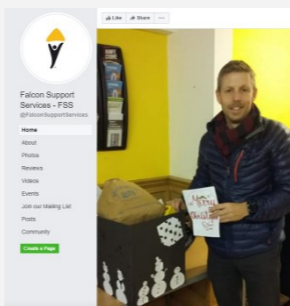
The idea behind finding an "Angel in Syston" is that the finder repays the act of kindness to others. So along with making our anti-bullying pledges our students have also decided to pay the kindness further forward by making up and distributing Christmas hampers to the elderly in Syston. Our students and staff brought in items from home and during tutor group time decorated their hampers to be distributed within the community.

Thank you to all who were involved, they looked fantastic and went to some well deserving homes. Thank you to Tesco's who also donated items for the hampers.



Staff and students getting ready for deliveries and the lovely Angel in Syston sitting next to our Anti-Bullying pledge baubles.

At the end of last term Mr Rowles' tutor group 11NRo decided that they would like to send their Christmas hamper to a homeless charity of their own choice. They chose to support Falcon Support Services in Loughborough. Falcon Support Services is a registered charity with the mission to help people to live independently and positively contribute to their community. We hope to continue to support the service throughout the year as they require not only at Christmas time but all year round.



Year 11 Success Week

During the final week of term just before Christmas we held our Year 11 'Success Week.' This involved the students speed networking with employers and receiving information about advanced apprenticeships. Later that week the RAF came into school to talk about apprenticeships in the uniformed services. The week finished with our first ever Year 11 Conference, looking at aspiration and the power we have to influence our own future.

The Year 11 students were excellent, they fully engaged with the week's events and gained valuable guidance for the forthcoming months leading up to exams and their future ahead. We were delighted with their efforts and we look forward to their continual progress towards the summer exams.

Being Brilliant Club

All Year 11 students are invited to join the 'Being Brilliant Club', which runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm - 4.15pm. The Being Brilliant Club is an opportunity for all Year 11 students to establish productive revision routines whilst accessing school revision resources. Teacher support will be available during each session. We hope to see your daughter/son there in the Library. Refreshments will be available in the Library from 3pm each session and we will serve pizza at the end of every third week! We also have other revision sessions running, please see the timetable below. We will now be using Tutor time to revise as well as at lunchtime and afterschool.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1 After school 3 - 4.15pm	Science	Maths	PE CAT French Media	English	English (Student choices)
Week 1 Lunchtime 1.25pm – 1.55pm					French
Week 2 After school 3 - 4.15pm	Science	Maths	History Geography Business	English	English (Student choices)
Week 2 Lunchtime 1.25pm – 1.55pm					French

There are a lot of useful revision resources on the website
<https://www.wvacademy.org/learning/2663-2/>
including video links, knowledge organisers, example exam essays and lots more.



For more
information on
Careers &
Aspirations

visit our
website:



www.wvacademy.org

Careers & Aspirations

Perfect Score – Young People’s Music Conference

I had the pleasure of taking twenty of our Year 9-10 students to the Curve to look at careers in the creative industries. The students had an excellent time and were inspired by the information they gathered about the creative industries. Some interesting facts they learnt:

- Over 3 million people are involved in the creative sector: that’s one in every 11 people!
- 87% of creative jobs are at low or no risk of automation
- The creative industries contributed £101.5bn to the UK economy in 2017

For further information you can have a look at the careers section of our website or follow the links below for local opportunities:

<https://discovercreative.careers/#/>: this website is very informative and gives you an excellent idea of the wide range of jobs available and the educational path you can take.

<https://leicestershiremusichub.org/>: this is really useful if you are looking for a music teacher, a group to perform with, Instrument hire and more.

<http://bullfrogarts.com/>: specialists in Taiko drumming, Singing and Voice

<http://clarencestreet.co.uk/>: studio and rehearsal facilities, team of experts on hand and an open mic night held regularly.

Year 10 Work experience update:

We have over sixty students taking part in Work Experience the week beginning 16th March. We hope to have the confirmation of placement details for each student very soon.

And finally I’d like to encourage you to have a look at the careers section of the school website for further information and the Parents Guide to Careers Education.

If you would like to book an appointment for your child then don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Mr Geoff Parkinson

Aspirations and Careers
Coordinator



Library News Continued

Exam support

The library continues to provide support to students revising for exams. We are a quiet place to work and are open until 4:15 Monday to Thursday. We have a range of revision guides on sale and more for reference use in the library. The Being Brilliant Club meets in the library on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 4:15 and is supported by subject teachers.

New books

We have added over 30 new books recently to the library’s stock, some were requests by students for new titles. The Football Academy books are proving very popular indeed.

World Book Day is on Thursday March 5th 2020 and we will be distributing the World Book Tokens during that week. This year the book tokens will be accepted in Asda and Morrisons stores as well as bookshops. For Key Stage 3 students we shall be running our Spot the books competition. Staff will be carrying their chosen books with them for the day and students will be challenged to find the most number of books.

Charity Council News

Our Charity Council is now in its fifth year of operation. We have seen the council grow as more and more students have joined the team. We are proud that this student led council has raised thousands of pounds for various charities over the years and have held rankings as top fundraisers for Children in Need and Comic Relief. Of course none of this would have been possible without the support of our parents and local community. The students always galvanise the staff and their peers and have come up with some great fundraising ideas over the years which has led to a visit from Pudsey Bear himself, an appearance on the BBC live Children in Need show, an interview on Radio Leicester and a visit from Leicestershire’s own Paralympian, Jonathan Broom-Edwards.

More recently Students have been focusing on local Charities and have raised money for LOROS. They have now decided that they would like their main focus for the rest of this academic year to be on raising money for Children in and out patients at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. Students got in touch with the play specialist there who told us that they were in desperate need of portable DVD players and DVD’s so that children receiving treatment or waiting for operations can have something to occupy them. We couldn’t be prouder of the student’s thoughtfulness.

Information regarding dates of fundraising events will be published shortly.

If you would like to support students in their latest fundraising endeavour and get involved in some way, or have any unwanted DVDs to donate, please get in touch with Mr Whitbread or Miss Toon at the school.

Thank you



Young Writers selected for publication:

Emily Barrow
Keira Brookes
Jean-Luc Cipieres
Callam Clarke
Samuel Farmer
Lily Evans
Luca Freer
Caitlin Gant
Zack Goodeger
Sarah Kleinmoedig
Mia Kouchepour
Zoe Morbey
Parth Patel
Indiana Palmer
Jesse Patterson
Jessica Ransom
Keira Rakhrao
Evan Reid,
Finley Steele
Caitlin Sharratt
Brooke Stevenson
Abeni Themudo
Aspen Whitehead
Meredith
Wordingham
and William
Hancox.

Library News

Last term several of our students entered the Young Writers' "Hunted" competition. I'm very pleased to say that many of the 100-word mini sagas have been selected for publication in their book Hunter- Predator Vs Prey, which is due for publication in March 2020. We will have a copy in the library for anyone who would like to read this.

In addition, we presented school prizes to winners and all entrants at the end of last term.

There are 3 national creative writing competitions coming up which we are encouraging students to enter.

Firstly, the UK's largest story writing competition – BBC Radio 2's 500 Words competition for under 13s is back for its tenth year. This competition celebrates creativity and originality and we look forward to reading the stories. Full details are on the website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4n1HgL2GFCWDMCtq9Sx5kKB/500-words-2020> and in the library.

Secondly Students over the age of 13 are invited to enter the BBC Young Writers Award with an original story in 1000 words. Full details are on the website: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/40fWXfKbtBPrZDv9jDKwg32/bbc-young-writers-award-is-back-for-2020> and in the library.

Thirdly Wicked Young Writer Awards is celebrating its 10 year anniversary. This was established by the long-running musical WICKED to link the important messages of the production with a competition that would inspire young people to use creative writing to look at life a little differently. They are inviting all young people aged up to 25 years to write a story in 750 words or less.

In addition they now include Wicked FOR GOOD: An Award for Non-Fiction competition in which students can write an essay, article or a piece of journalism in 750 words celebrating the positive impact people have on each other and their community.

Full details on the website: <https://www.wickedyoungwriterawards.com/about-the-award> and in the library.

For more details please see me in the library.

Mrs Nita Patel

Librarian



Creative & Visual Arts Department

We are thrilled to announce that ex-drama student Jodie Knight, will be starring as 'Fatimah' in the UK tour of West End Musical 'Everybody's Talking About Jamie'. Jodie completed her GCSE and A levels here at Wreake and after achieving a fantastic set of A levels results she secured a place studying musical theatre at the 'Midlands Academy of Dance and Drama'. We were very lucky last term when Jodie popped in to say "Hi" and share her success with the school. There will be a school trip in June to watch Jodie in the show at the Curve and she will also be coming in to talk with our GCSE Drama and Music students about the show and the rehearsal process. We very much look forward to seeing Jodie on stage and as a school we are super proud of her achievements.

Music & Drama

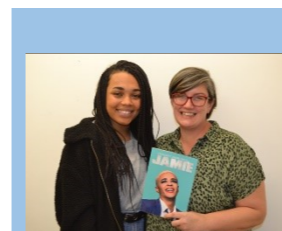
After a busy but musical Christmas, it's straight back to work for the Performing Arts students as we prepare for this year's school production of "Made in Dagenham". Depicting the Female workers at Ford Dagenham's fight for equal pay "Made in Dagenham" is an upbeat musical with energetic dance routines, catchy numbers and an important message. Students have been working incredibly hard to bring this production to stage and we hope to welcome you in the audience from the 12th to the 14th of February. Tickets available on Wisepay or by telephoning us on 0116 2641080.

This term in Music, students in Years 7,8 and 9 are learning the basics of DJing and scratching. This is the second year we have taught this unit of work at Wreake Valley and students are enjoying learning about a different aspect of Music. Students are developing the skills to perform and compose complex scratch routines. They will also have the opportunity to perform in a county wide competition where the winner will win their own decks. Students interested in competing should see Mr Clamp.

At Wreake Valley students can access one to one music lessons for a wide range of instruments taught by visiting teachers. Our teachers are all professional musicians and educators with years of experience. These lessons are run throughout the day and parents/guardians pay the music teachers directly. Lessons are available in for the following:

Guitar/ Bass Guitar/ Ukulele
Piano
Singing
Brass – Trumpet/ Trombone/ Baritone
Clarinet and Saxophone
Drums and Percussion
Violin

If you are interested in your child learning one of the above instruments or if you would like to request another instrument, please contact Mr Clamp at timothy.clamp@wvacademy.org or encourage your child to come to have a chat.





Personal Development (PD)

Year 8 Anti-Knife Crime Assembly and Workshop

In December an organisation called Words Over Weapons came in to school to run an anti-knife crime assembly and workshop for Year 8 students. The aims of the session were to change young people's attitudes around knife culture and to stop all young people carrying knives. The day began with an assembly for all of Year 8 students to outline the risks and dangers of carrying a knife, the injuries that can be caused and the impact on the victim, their family and the perpetrator. Afterwards 30 Year 8 students took part in a more in depth 3 hour workshop with representatives from each tutor group. These students then gave feedback to the rest of their tutor group to share what they had learnt during the workshop.

The group who ran the assembly and workshop also run Syston Youth Café which is open to 11-18 year olds on a Friday evening from 6.30pm at the Hub Café (Syston Methodist Church) – several members of Year 8 already attend.

Syston Youth Cafe is a free, safe and welcoming youth club for young people aged 11-18yrs. Young people are invited to pop along every Friday evening from 6.30pm-9.00pm, at the Hub Cafe (Syston Methodist Church), High Street, Syston, LE7 1GP. They will have access to a range of activities and youth workers who are on hand to listen and support. For more information, email info@go-getta.org.uk or call/text 07939199549

Road Safety for Year 7

This term each Year 7 tutor group will have a road safety session delivered by the Traffic Management department at Leicestershire Police. Students in Year 7 are in the age group that are most at risk from incidents involving traffic. The session will help students to think about how they get from A to B safely. The sessions are planned to take part in February and March. Please discuss road safety with your son/daughter on a regular basis.

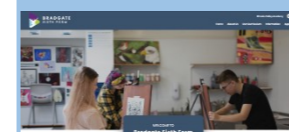
Humanities Department

American West – GCSE History

On the morning of Wednesday 26th February an organisation will be coming in to school to do some work with GCSE History students regarding their work about the American West. For Year 11 students this will be particularly pertinent because it will help them with their History mock exam which is at the beginning of March. Year 10 students are either currently studying the American West or they will be doing so in the near future so this will be an invaluable experience for them too.



For more information on Bradgate Sixth Form visit our website:



www.bradgatesixthform.org

or contact

Katie Johnson
Head of
Bradgate Sixth
Form

B6 - Bradgate Sixth Form

Bradgate Sixth Form is part of the Bradgate Education Partnership trust and shares the same site as Wreake Valley Academy.

January has been another exciting and busy month in Bradgate Sixth Form! All students have now either applied for their university place or have begun their Apprenticeship applications. Students who are applying for apprenticeships are being supported by the Leicestershire Education Business Company who are providing students with 1-1 guidance, support and advice. This is a really exciting time for students and we wish them the very best of luck for their interviews.

We have also launched '20 Challenges for 2020' to encourage students to gain wider skills and experiences. Keep an eye out on our social media accounts to see how brilliantly students are in completing these challenges!

Applications for a place at Bradgate Sixth Form for September 2020 have now closed. If you haven't yet applied and would still like to, please contact Mrs Johnson, Head of Bradgate Sixth Form <https://www.bradgatesixthform.org>

Leicestershire Fire Services B6 Workshop

In January Bradgate Sixth Form hosted a firefighter from Leicestershire Fire Service.

Year 12 students listened to a hour long presentation on road safety which focused on 'The Fatal Four': Drink and Drugs, Mobile Phones, Speeding and No Seatbelts. Unfortunately there have been several serious road traffic collisions that have occurred in the county where tragically young people have lost their lives or have received life changing injuries. By inviting the Fire Service into the Sixth Form as some students begin to drive on the roads, we hope to educate them to not only drive safely but the potential dangers that may present themselves.

Following the presentation students then had the opportunity to try virtual reality headsets to simulate what it would feel like to be in a rescue situation.



Bradgate Sixth Form



@bradgate6th



@bradgatesixthform