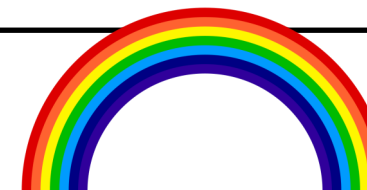


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Meet the new Headteacher Mr Marston



At the beginning of March, members of our School Council decided to interview our new Headteacher to see what his plans for the students and school as a whole were. The council met and came up with some very impressively relevant and pertinent questions. A group of 12 then put the questions to him and they did not hold back. We definitely have some budding journalists in our midst. See some of the questions and his responses below as reported by Sarah Tene and Kiana Bharakhada in Year 9. (Members of the Student Council)

As of April 20th, Wreake Valley Academy has a new Headteacher by the name of Mr Tim Marston. He previously worked in Northampton as a Head Teacher. Mr Marston has big and exciting plans for the success and happiness of the students and staff at the school. The student council decided to put Mr Marston to the test by asking about his background and his proposals for the upcoming school years. Below are the questions we asked and his response.

What inspired you to become a teacher?

Funnily enough, it was the last thing he wanted to be and it was actually his mother (who was also a teacher) that wanted him to walk into the limelight as a teacher. Mr Marston however wanted to become a rugby player, unfortunately for him that was not what the future held for him. He found himself training to become a coach and began working in schools and so decided to train to be a P.E. teacher.

What was your first impression of the school?

Mr Marston stated that he liked the positive atmosphere and care between staff and students (and vice versa). On the other hand, he believed that the standards were not high enough for his liking, for instance some students came in after the 8:45 bell and were therefore registered as late. He felt that this wasn't acceptable and that we have the capability to do better. Also, he thinks that the Ofsted report will improve, but will take time. This however, is not his priority. If we're happy, he is happy!

What do you think needs improving at Wreake Valley Academy?

The point above leads to this question quite nicely as this is something he wanted to improve. Mr Marston stated that "everything in every school can be improved". The first thing he wants to change is the rewards and sanctions from April onwards. He also wants to create a culture for the school - behaviour and standards of students needs to improve. In addition to this, he wants the school body to look after each other and build independence.



Meet the new Headteacher Mr Marston continued...

How do you plan to empower students?

He would like students to become a collective and more self-sufficient force. Mr Marston would like us to raise money, invest it back into the school and spend it in the way that we would like. He also stressed that he would make mistakes and be held accountable for them. Another way to galvanize the pupils is that some detentions will be led by him. He said that if anyone has a query, you should not hesitate to challenge his ideas and views.

How will your presence impact the community?

He thinks the school should reflect the community. Humbly, he wants the students to be representing and impacting the community. Also, he wants the community to take advantage of the great facilities that the academy provides.

Do you think homework is important?

Many deem that homework is the foundation of good learning; Mr Marston agrees that homework is most effective if it is 'good'. He wants homework to prepare students for the next lesson so that they can take a full and active part in every lesson. The example he gave was if you were going to have a history debate about women's rights during the world war (in time with International Women's Day), that the students should research facts so that they would be prepared to present their ideas during the debate next lesson.

Will you let us use our phones during break and lunch time?

Simply, no. He wants to create a culture of verbal and personal communication with one another. Phones will be taken if seen.

Will you change the detention system?

Yes. However once a detention is completed, Mr Marston wants to give every student a chance to redeem themselves by creating a clean slate after problems occur. Detentions will take place at break, lunch and after school, every day. No one will get away with spoiling lessons.

Are you going to support the school and charity council?

The new Headteacher would love to support the charity council and has agreed to fund ideas such as the gardening club and improving the school garden. He also informed us about removing non-school uniform days as part of fundraising due to the fact that he believes that it changes the flow of lessons.

Will you make changes to the uniform?

Mr Marston will not make any major changes to the uniform, like new blazers and ties, but just setting the bar higher than it already is. He expects students to tuck their shirts in and have their skirts to knee-length. Also, he wants us to look formal, smart and professional. Mr Marston emphasised the fact that he was okay with people dying their hair natural colours but not extremes like pink and green.

Do you believe that we humans on Earth will beat climate change?

He believes that our generation and the next are responsible for beating climate change. We are the ones that need to make a difference as in his eyes "it's too late for my generation". He also said that we should pressure others to take action and that we shouldn't just wait for others to make a change. He states "if it matters to you, make it matter to me".



PE Department—Dance Workshop

On Tuesday 10th March we had an exciting opportunity for some of our Year 9 and Year 10 students. An ex-student Zoe Chambers came in to our school to deliver a contemporary dance workshop. It was tough but fun and many of them had never done anything like this before, there were a lot of aches the next day!!



Wreake Valley 50th Anniversary!!!

Next year will mark the 50th Anniversary of Wreake Valley opening its doors for the very first time!!

And whilst we are all under quarantine and have plenty of time at home what could be more time worthy than going into your attics and cupboards to retrieve that old shoe box of your Wreake photos!

We would love to hear from any of our former pupils or staff with old stories, articles, anecdotes, or photographs that you would be happy to share. We hope to put together some displays around the school to show our current and future pupils how the school has changed over those 50 years.

If you do have any items or memories you are happy to share please email: tracey.murnin@wvacademy.org and help us to celebrate this milestone.



3G Pitch



Tennis Courts



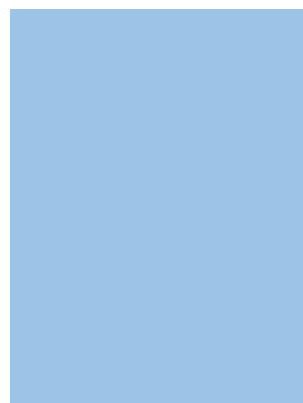
Theatre



Sports Hall & Gym



Sports Hall & 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 Astro turf 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.

For further information please contact Ian Harrison, Community Facilities

Tamworth Snow dome A Level PE Trip

On Friday 14th February, Year 12 and 13 A level PE students visited the Snow dome in Tamworth. It was a great day, learning new skills and working together. The students had a ski lesson, resulting in all of them completing a run down the slope, with only a few falls! Next up, was ice skating, with a couple of students thinking they were auditioning for dancing on ice.....with not quite the planned moves!



Newsletter - Spring Term Issue

Meet the new Headteacher Mr Marston continued...

What rules do you hate that we currently have embedded?

As the new Head, he doesn't want to change the school but insist on the rules we already have in place being followed. However, he wants to get rid of the "3 lates 1 detention" rule. Instead, as implied above, he would like it to take place every time you are late in the form of a ten-minute detention during break/lunch that same day where possible.

How will you support GCSE students especially during exam season?

Interestingly, Mr Marston used an analogy of the Burj Khalifa: "You start learning for your GCSE's the day you start at primary school. Every lesson is a brick to build a great structure" and as students we must come out of our comfort zone. As well as this, he acknowledged that mock exams act as a taste of reality before the actual exams. When asked about revision sessions, he thinks that they are crucial to our learning.

Is there anything you would like to add to the school curriculum?

Mr Marston has plans to add Computer Science. He would also like to empower students to take increased ownership of their education as they move through the school.

In conclusion, we are thrilled to hear the great things Mr Marston has in store for us. He is very accepting and open-minded and will always listen to our viewpoints.





5 Steps Towards Positive Well Being

At Wreake Valley we are mindful of promoting our students positive well being. We are working alongside the NHS guidelines to ensure we promote the 5 steps our students can take to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Trying these 5 steps could help you to feel more positive and able to get the most out of life:

1. Connect with other people - Good relationships are important for your mental wellbeing. They can:

- help you to build a sense of belonging and self-worth
- give you an opportunity to share positive experiences
- provide emotional support and allow you to support others

2. Be physically active - Being active is not only great for your physical health and fitness. Evidence also shows it can also improve your mental wellbeing by:

- Raising your self esteem
- helping you to set goals or challenges and achieve them
- causing chemical changes in your brain which can help to positively change your mood

3. Learn new skills - Research shows that learning new skills can also improve your mental wellbeing by:

- boosting self-confidence and raising self-esteem
- helping you to build a sense of purpose
- helping you to connect with others

Even if you feel like you do not have enough time, or you may not need to learn new things, there are lots of different ways to bring learning into your life.

4. Give to others - Research suggests that acts of giving and kindness can help improve your mental wellbeing by:

- creating positive feelings and a sense of reward
- giving you a feeling of purpose and self-worth
- helping you connect with other people

It could be small acts of kindness towards other people, or larger ones like volunteering in your local community.

5. Pay attention to the present moment (mindfulness)

Paying more attention to the present moment can improve your mental wellbeing. This includes your thoughts and feelings, your body and the world around you. Some people call this awareness "mindfulness". Mindfulness can help you enjoy life more and understand yourself better. It can positively change the way you feel about life and how you approach challenges.



Wreake Valley Academy will be representing Leicester City in the maiden Inspires Challenge in London this April!

Our Wreake Valley team, the King Power Rangers represented the school at the Club Heats of the Inspire Challenge. They had been set a challenge to create a social action project to create a positive impact in their local community.

They pitched their ideas brilliantly and spoke with the four judges about their social action idea. We won and have been selected to represent Leicester City at the Premier League after they carried out their project.

Each secondary school had to pitch an idea around youth social action and the theme 'This is Everyone's Game'

During school hours, after school hours and over lunch time – groups have been generating ideas of need they have identified in their community – which are inclusive.

Competing for a place at the final at Leicester City in the Community's Community Hub, Inspires Coordinator Amelia Paynter explained why Wreake Valley won the club heat.

"It was the longevity of their programme," she explained. "It wasn't just a 'do one event and that's done', they have put loads of research into the need of the target group they were looking at.

They want to see a difference in their local community and understand that they can be part of that change.

"They were looking at working with the elderly, which looked at getting the wider community involved."

In the build-up to the final, the Wreake Valley pupils will receive £100 from LCitC to continue to develop their idea and will get expert help from the Premier League.

Well done Wreake's King power Rangers !





Wreake Valley Writers Weekly Publication

The English Department have their very own letter that showcases just how brilliant our students are at descriptive writing.

With all our students and staff stuck at home one thing that might unite them is staring out from their windows. With this in mind, Head of English Genevieve Lovegrove asked for optional descriptions based on 'The View from my Bedroom Window'. There were over 70 submissions which have now been published in 'The Stay-at-Home Diaries.'

Many more wonderful pieces can be found on our website.

Now, the streets only carry the chirping of the birds and the whispers of the wind. Despite the rare warmth of the day not a single man, woman or child can be seen. Without the usual disturbance of wheels and heels the concrete looks bare, like a flower without its petals.

By Vanshika Pathak

I look out of my bedroom window in anticipation, wondering if anyone is going to pass by. The sound of silence fills the air; it's calming yet very disturbing for me. I want to hear the roar of car engines and the laugh of youths walking by. The world is at a standstill as the neon yellow sun shines brightly in the ocean blue sky.

By Jade North

From my bedroom window I can see cars going nowhere, birds are still flying but there's no people in sight, they must all be in lockdown.

All's very quiet. Only the odd tractor breaks the silence.

By Toby Dilkes

We step outside to our welcoming neighbourhood, applauding our live-savers as they continue being heroic in this difficult pandemic. Many people have tears in their eyes as they give back to our loyal saviours. Dogs are barking while citizens bang drums and strum guitars making noise to show our thanks. The nurse that lives next door to us is sobbing happily as she notices how much she has done for this community. I stop, pausing for a second, as my eyes wander around my estate: there is so much positive spirit for our champions.

By Megan Brand



WVA Student's Teach Year 5 Pupils Origami & Magic at Merton Primary School



On Wednesday 11th March a group of our Year 7 pupils have been busy teaching card tricks, magic numbers and origami. They spent the morning at Merton Primary School working with sixty pupils in Year 5, teaching them their new found skills.

Mrs Thomson the Headteacher at Merton was there to greet all of our students on their arrival and took the opportunity to show them Merton's new hall which had been rebuilt since some of our students had attended the Primary school.

We are very proud of the Year 7 as they demonstrated how clearly they could explain their tricks and origami, the kindness they showed, and the support they gave. The Year 5 were 'wowed' by the tricks and were excited to try them out on their families.

This was a very successful morning and was a great opportunity for the Year 5 to meet our Year 7 pupils. The teachers at Merton commented on how polite and patient our year 7 pupils were.

Well done to all those involved.





Pupils taking part in an experiment



Parents getting involved



Science Department - Primary Science Master Class



A visit from our new Headteacher

Mr Marston

An enjoyable afternoon was spent with Year 5 students from six of our primary schools; Merton, Broomfield, Queniborough C of E, Saint Peter and Saint Paul C of E, St Michael and All Angels in Rearsby, and Gaddesby Primary School. The afternoon was structured around looking at how chemicals react when students investigated a series of variables.

The session started with a demonstration from Mr Rowles, Head of Science looking at fast and slow reactions, culminating with a very loud bang from a hydrogen balloon! The students were then introduced to the idea of measuring how quickly a reaction took place. Students then undertook a series of experiments reacting an acid with marble chips and collecting data as they went. They experimented changing variables to see the effects and were able to show their data graphically.

Mr Marston the new Wreake Valley Academy Headteacher also enjoyed meeting the Year 5 Students and got involved in all the experiments that were being undertaken.

At the end of the session the students had the opportunity to share with their parents what they had achieved and thoroughly enjoyed recounting what they had found out.



WVA Donate PPE Equipment to NHS

Wreake Valley Academy has been delighted to be able to help our NHS by donating our stock of science goggles and visors to Glenfield Hospital and Bradgate Mental Health Unit.

The Science Department at WVA also donated 25 boxes of disposable gloves to the Neo Natal Unit at LRI.



Mr Wright one of Wreake's Design and Technology teachers has also given a helping hand to the NHS by making face visors for GP's in Loughborough on the schools 3D printer.

And finally the Premises Team at WVA have donated their supply of face masks to the Diuretics Department at LRI.

If you have any PPE equipment that you are able to donate please contact Claire.Ellis@leicspart.nhs.uk



Library News - World Book Day



Mrs Patel the School Librarian



Students listening to World Book Day "Share a Story" chapters in class.



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday March 5th 2020 with a competition for both students and staff, as well as distributing the World Book Day Tokens. We asked staff to carry their chosen book with them for the day and challenged students to see how many they could spot. Miss Powell had also asked 10 Year 8 students from her English class to dress up as their favourite book character and do a short speech in the library during lunchtime. Students had to spot the staff carrying their books as well as the 10 book characters. We offered prizes to the students who spotted the greatest number of books and characters and to the staff member whose book was seen by the greatest number of students.

Competition winners

Well done to our joint winners who found 39 books and identified the 10 book characters. Thank you to all staff who carried a book on the day.

Winners:

Toby Russell
William Carver-Sansby
Ansh Shah
Evan Reid
Caleb Khera

Runners Up:

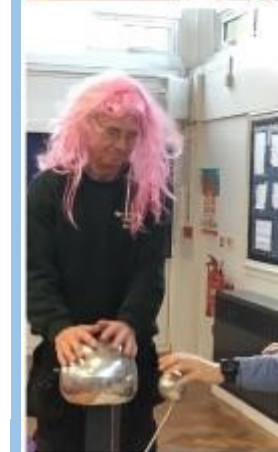
Titas Pavelcikas
Nikisha Bakrania
Abeni Themudo
Staff Winner : Mrs Simpson

:-

World Book Day's theme this year was "Share a Story". Here at Wreake we invited our Key Stage 3 teachers to spend the first 5 minutes of each lesson on World Book Day reading a section of a short story to their classes. By the end of the day the **The Lottery** by Shirley Jackson; had been shared by 375 students. You can read the story here :- <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1948/06/26/the-lottery>



Primary Transition



Science Week - Queniborough Primary Schools "Hair Raising" Assemblies

On the 9th March, the beginning of Science Week, I had the privilege of being invited into Queniborough Primary School to launch their week of science activities. I held two assemblies for the whole school to attend. The theme was "Hair Raising" and we explored a journey from making hair stand on end to the splitting of chemicals and testing them.

The students were an enthusiastic audience taking great delight in seeing their Premises Officer, Mr Watson, don a flamboyant pink wig and participate in the demonstration. However the loudest cheer had to be for the teaching staff who lined up to be "shocked" by the Van Der Graaf, not once but on multiple occasions!

I was particularly impressed by the understanding of the science shown by the pupils, and their enthusiasm was incredible. A brilliant audience. It was a good job break time followed the assembly as the pupils were buzzing!

I was delighted to be invited to join the pupils and staff at Queniborough and look forward to working with the Year 5 and 6 in the future.

Mr Rowles

Head of Science



Bath Bomb Making



Making Holograms

Wow, what a week!

Science Week flew by this year with lots of activities taking place.

All Key Stage 3 students took part in activities in their timetabled Science lessons, which included the testing of your senses, finger print identification and making and experimenting with hovercrafts.

At lunchtimes students were engaged in other activities which were well attended by large groups of students each day. Students had the opportunity to make holograms, experiment with static electricity and the infamous Van Der Graaf generator. However the best attended activity was the bath bomb making which might have something to do with it being so close to Mothers Day, Who knows?!

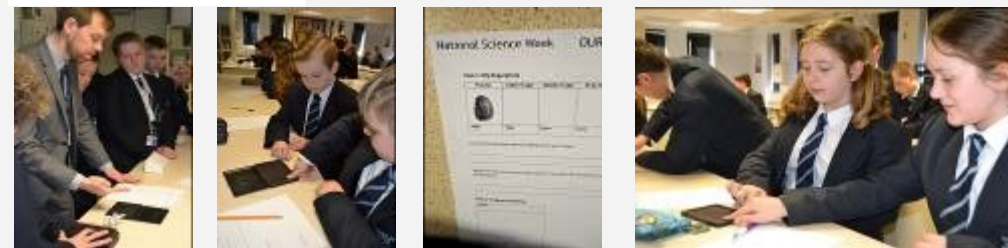
Thank you to the Science department for giving up your spare time to run the activities.

Mr Rowles
Head of Science

Students experimenting with static and the Van der Graaf Generator



Finger Printing Lesson



A Review by Leading Lady Chloe Richardson

'In the show I played the lead role of 'Rita', I greatly enjoyed the process and production of 'Made in Dagenham'. Owing to me being in school productions previously, my confidence has grown both on and off stage. I would definitely recommend doing the show to anyone that loves performing and has a passion for the performing arts. The cast is also very welcoming to any newcomers and all the cast is open to helping and setting an example to younger years and new people in the shows.'

"A feast of a show!"

"Such a treat for a mid week in February. An amazing performance by all and great to see the students out of the classroom entertaining and captivating the audience. The singing and choreography along with the band was brilliant. Great props and sets but truly made by the professional delivery from the students.

Well worth £6 for the tickets!"

Miss Myles - Student Support Worker

Made in Dagenham Review from Parent

"Was an amazing production from our Wreake drama kids OMG it was nothing short of fantastic!

The message it gave to me as a woman, as a wife and as a mum was truly inspirational and very emotional.

A very strong message - you can do anything if you really want it bad enough.

The entire production worked so hard to make this show a true spectacular show piece.

Well done to Mrs C for producing and creating such a great show A big shout out to everyone involved!

All those hours of rehearsing after school and at weekends was definitely worth it.

Can't wait to see what's coming up next."



Wreake Valley Academy

Creative & Visual Arts Department



Made in Dagenham Production Reviews

Just a little message from Mr Clamp and I to say how proud we are of every student that was involved in the production 'Made in Dagenham'.

It is safe to say that it was an immense success and the students took real ownership of the production. It is definitely one of the best shows we have ever put on at Wreake and the audience feedback was truly overwhelming.

In the build up to the show it was great to see the cast, crew and band come together as one big family. The last weeks of a show are always busy with extra weekend rehearsals, trips to the costume shop, prop making, technical rehearsals, dress rehearsals and band calls all leading to show week. The hours and hours of rehearsal begin to pay off. Every student involved contributed to a smooth, slick and highly professional run of performances, seeing the students beaming with pure enjoyment and confidence at the end of each show made me burst with pride.

I also want to thank the parents, guardians and carers who helped us to find props, make costumes, collected to and from rehearsals, putting up with the students singing 'Dagenham' songs over and over again in their bedrooms, I am sure you feel this same as me in saying it was all worth it.

As the students know it is highly likely I will shed a few tears on the final night and this isn't from sadness that it is all over but happiness from new friendships the cast have made, watching each student grow not only as a performer but also in their own self-belief and confidence, and finally, the memories they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

As one show closes, we are already planning the next and we hope to see even more students involved in next year's show. Finally, well done to everyone involved in 'Dagenham', your talent, commitment and passion for the show made it an absolute joy to be part of.

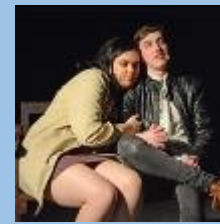
Thank you.

Mrs C & Mr Clamp

Creative & Visual Arts

Wreake Valley Academy

Primary Transition



Primary Schools Attend Production

On Monday 10th February over 200 Year 5 and 6 pupils from Broomfield, St Michael and All Angels, Gaddesby, The Merton, and St Peter and St Paul were invited to watch a matinee performance of our school production, *Made in Dagenham*.

The cast performed some of the scenes and musical numbers from the production, alongside a narration of the plot. *Made in Dagenham* is based on the real-life experiences of Rita O'Grady who was a sewing machinist at the Ford factory in Dagenham, Essex in 1968. The musical focuses on the actions that Rita and her fellow workers took to make sure that women were treated equally to men. Rita encouraged the women at Dagenham to walk out ("Everybody Out"). Despite enormous difficulties Rita continued her efforts for equality and gives a rousing speech at a televised Trade Union Conference ("Stand Up"), leading to the passing of equal pay for men and women.

The quality of the production was incredible, certainly as good as anything you would see on the West End of London! Many of the hit numbers were heard being sung by the pupils as they were leaving!! Equally important there were so many important messages for the pupils to take from the production.

The pupils at St Peter and St Paul kindly wrote reviews of the production. Stephen wrote, "It was the best ever! Everybody was excellent!" and Olivia said "*Made in Dagenham* was brilliant. It was phenomenal!" Emily thought, "*Made in Dagenham* was both amusing and emotional at times." Sienna liked, "all the acting and singing. Everyone did amazing! The band were also amazing!" Many of the pupils including Archie and Sienna liked Rita's emotional and rousing speech at the end.

Following the performance our students spoke about their experiences of putting on a full school production and the many different roles from acting, orchestra, lighting, sound, choreography, staging and costume design that students can get involved in. They also invited questions from the audience.

This really was a hugely successful morning and we would like to thank all the students and staff involved.

Belinda Nuttall - Assistant Principal