



Summer School 2021 report

For two weeks, from Monday 26th July to Friday 6th August 2021 we had 221 different children from 25 different primary schools attend a Summer School at Wreake Valley Academy. Over the 10 days we had a total of 1,612 children - averaging over 160 per day. All the children who would be starting in Year 7 at Wreake Valley Academy and The Roundhill Academy in were invited to join us; and we were delighted by the positive uptake.



The Summer School was funded as part of the government catch up strategy for Year 6 children, who would be making the transition from primary to secondary school in August 2021. Unfortunately for these children, much of the usual transition programme was cancelled or postponed because of the pandemic; and for many children they hadn't been into a secondary school. We were therefore delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to local children.

'My son's enthusiasm has blown me away, and I've been so impressed by the activities you've put on for so many children, especially given the circumstances'

The two weeks were set up as a bridging experience from primary to secondary school, so not a playscheme but not quite secondary school. Each day there were three activities with a balance between sports, creative activities and core subjects of English, Maths and Science. This has triggered an interest and enthusiasm for learning new skills and trying new subjects and sports; and has certainly helped children settle into secondary school.

'Isla has had the very best fortnight and has loved every minute! She's thoroughly enjoyed all the different experiences and range of curriculum you have put on for them in such a fun way!'

Some of the highlights were cooking chow mein, apple crumble and making smoothies; learning to programme computers, making animated 3D models in design, a version of Escape Rooms where the children had to escape by problem solving and decoding in maths; learning new sports such as lacrosse and badminton, experiments in science where the children created and tested an electromagnet using powerpacks; and we can't forget the ice cream van, the sports afternoon and disco on the last day!



For many children the real value was the opportunity to meet up with old friends and begin to make new friends; practice getting to and from school on their own and start to feel more independent. One parent commented,

'It has been so valuable to practice coming and going from school and loosening those apron strings!'



Our staff were delighted to see the sheer enjoyment of the children and the fun they had. Parents commented that their children went home buzzing from their day and raring to go the next day. The children impressed staff with their resilience and readiness to try new experiences and meet new people.

'Thank you so much for the last 2 weeks. My son has enjoyed all the activities and he is so excited to start Wreake Valley in a few weeks. This scheme has given him extra confidence, a good knowledge of the school and an idea of what he can expect to be doing in some of his lessons. He has met his form tutor and made some new friends, so we are both delighted'.

This programme felt very worthwhile and the children who did attend were able to support those children who didn't when the new academic year began. We hope the experience helped children feel ready and excited about starting at secondary school. We would like to make a heartfelt thank you to all the premises officers, support staff, teachers and some of our students, who gave up their holidays to run the sessions and made sure the children had the best time. It has been a fabulous experience. Hopefully this will be an experience the children and staff will treasure.

BBC East Midlands Today

We were also delighted to welcome BBC East Midlands today into the school to report on the Summer School and speak to the children and staff involved; with different reports on both the lunchtime and evening news on Friday 6th August.





Funding

We received a total of £93,698.83 funding, which we spent as follows:

Staffing costs, £45,782.17

Educational resources, £33,271.81

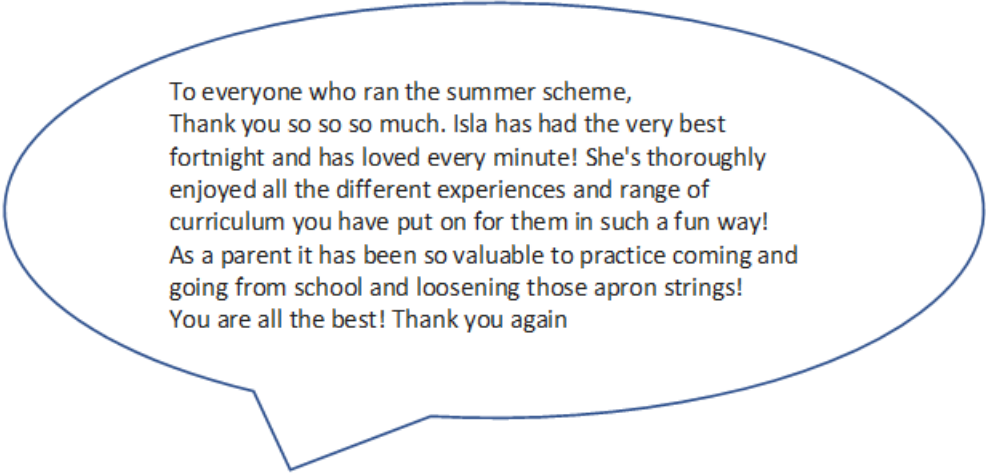
Venues, £9,780.00

Summer School 'uniform', £3,168.82

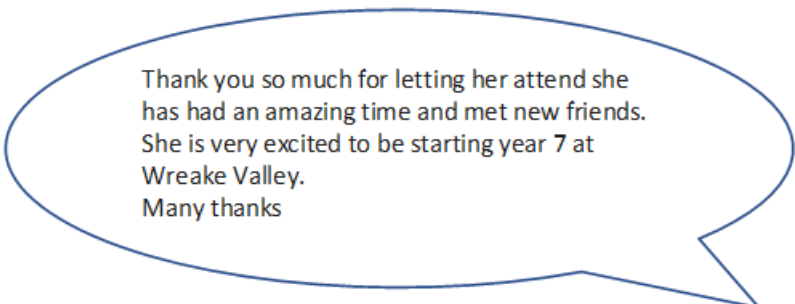
Free School Meals & drinks, £1,089.61

Student rewards, £606.42

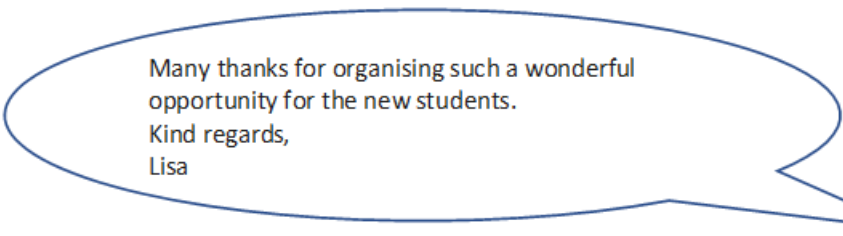
Here's a selection of the emails we received from parents:



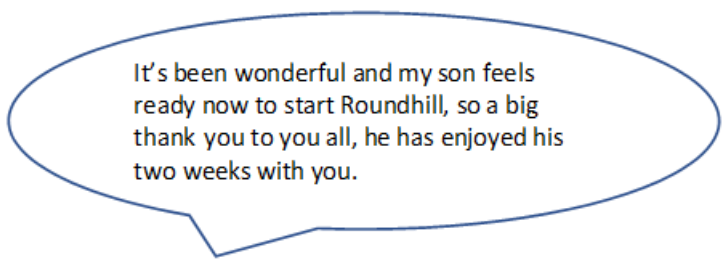
To everyone who ran the summer scheme,
Thank you so so so much. Isla has had the very best
fortnight and has loved every minute! She's thoroughly
enjoyed all the different experiences and range of
curriculum you have put on for them in such a fun way!
As a parent it has been so valuable to practice coming and
going from school and loosening those apron strings!
You are all the best! Thank you again



Thank you so much for letting her attend she
has had an amazing time and met new friends.
She is very excited to be starting year 7 at
Wreake Valley.
Many thanks



Many thanks for organising such a wonderful
opportunity for the new students.
Kind regards,
Lisa



It's been wonderful and my son feels
ready now to start Roundhill, so a big
thank you to you all, he has enjoyed his
two weeks with you.

Ethan has throughly enjoyed the summer scheme
thank you to all the staff for all their hard work.
Take care Hayley

Isla has come home every day buzzing telling us about the
things she has been doing. The apple crumble was top
class. Many thanks again for running this project during
your own holiday after the year we have had.
Please pass my thanks to everyone involved.
Yours
George

Thank you so much for the last 2 weeks. My son has enjoyed all the
activities and he is so excited to start Wreake Valley in a few weeks.
This scheme has given him extra confidence, a good knowledge of
the school and an idea of what he can expect to be doing in some of
his lessons. He has met his form tutor and made some new friends,
so we are both delighted.
Kind regards

Hello,
Just wanted to say thank you so much for
organising the summer scheme. Aaryan has
had a lovely two weeks and is really looking
forward to starting at Roundhill. I think it's
really helped his confidence in getting ready
for secondary.
He absolutely loved the cooking!
Kind regards.





