

October 2024

PARENT BULLETIN

WELCOME

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to thank you all for working with us to ensure that the start of the academic year went smoothly.

We have seen our students respond positively to the increased expectations as they move up through the years.

Our new starters in Year 7 and Year 12 have settled quickly and are working hard with us to ensure they adopt positive working attitudes.

We have held a number of events including parents evening and parent information evenings. Thank you for attending these as we know they are a great way of finding out about your own child and how you can support them with us, including in lessons but also through the wider personal development and careers programme.

We are pleased to announce the imminent opening of our new science block which should be up and running after half term. The new block will add further capacity to the Academy science facilities and provide extra labs and classrooms.

Our mentoring and academic coaching team have further grown this year and they are already busy boosting the performance of students across year groups and subjects.

As always, if your child isn't already involved in a club or activity, please encourage them to join. We are extremely proud of the opportunities that we offer students, especially in sports and performance. There is lots to get involved with and it's a great opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

As with most schools, we are seeing an increase in the number of school incidents linked to social media outside of school. Please continue to speak with your child about the importance of safe and appropriate use of social media.

I would like to wish you all a good half term break and thank you for your continued support. If you have a question or query, please get in touch.

Mike Wilson
Executive Headteacher
Wigston Academy/Wigston College

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—AUTUMN TERM 2024

Mid Term Break	Monday 21 st October to Friday 25 th October 2024
School closed (Teacher day)	Friday 29th November 2024
Christmas Break	Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025

I am very pleased to announce two important changes in leadership at Wigston Academy and Wigston College. From next half term, Mr Chris Conlon will become Headteacher of the Academy and Mrs Ailie Pollon will become Headteacher of the College. Mr Mike Wilson will continue in his role as Executive Headteacher. Their appointments will add capacity to the senior leadership team and they will have a strong focus on raising outcomes for students across the Trust. They will write to you soon but in the meantime, here are their pen portraits, so that you can find out a bit more about them.

Mr Mark Mitchley, CEO, on behalf of the Trustees of Wigston Academies Trust

I am truly honoured to step into the role of Headteacher at Wigston Academy. Since joining the Trust last year, I have already had the pleasure of meeting many students, staff, and parents, and I have been deeply impressed by the vibrant sense of community that defines our school.

Wigston Academy's core values of respect, ambition, responsibility, engagement, and resilience are at the heart of everything we do. These values are not just words, but guiding principles that shape our students' experiences, preparing them with the skills and mind set they need to succeed in life. I am committed to fostering an environment where every student feels supported in their academic journey and personal growth. I believe that when staff, students, and parents and carers work closely together, great things can be achieved. By maintaining strong, open communication and a shared vision, we can ensure that every young person has the opportunity to thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Having worked in education for over 20 years, with teaching and leadership experience in Liverpool, London, and Leicester, I bring a wealth of experience to this role. Now settled here in Leicester with my young family, I am proud to call this city home and even more excited to be taking on the role of Headteacher and being part of the Wigston Academy community.

I look forward to working alongside you, creating opportunities for your child to excel academically and enjoy a rich and fulfilling school experience full of opportunities and interest.

Mr Chris Conlon

I am delighted to be taking on the role of Headteacher of Wigston College. Having worked in Wigston for 26 years I am very proud of the changes I have been part of and witnessed as Wigston Academies Trust has developed. I was part of the senior team who enabled the College to move out of special measures to good in all areas and I was proud to be a key leader in maintaining the Ofsted Good judgement in the following inspection. As a Deputy Headteacher I contributed to securing Good for the Academy as well. Although I recognise that there is more to leading a school, ensuring that all students are able to achieve academically and socially and ensure that they are well prepared for an exciting future are key to my beliefs. The College ethos is Students First and academic achievement and wellbeing as at the centre of all that we do and is something I truly believe in. Before stepping into this role I was Deputy Headteacher for Quality of Education, Assistant Headteacher, responsible for Sixth form and KS4 and before that I was a Progress Coordinator and Head of House.

I am a mum of two, one now studying their Masters in Glasgow, having completed A levels at Wigston College and one who is currently in our Sixth Form studying for her A Levels. I believe that if it isn't good enough for my own children, then it is not right for anyone. If I have spare time, I enjoy family time, baking, reading, watching rugby, tennis and socialising with friends.

Moving forwards I am excited to continue to be part of the Trust and to lead Wigston College. I am fully committed to continuing to improve the opportunities for our students including the standards of education and student achievement and ensuring our young people are fully equipped for their next steps, whether that is university, apprenticeship or employment.

Mrs Ailie Pollon



Attendance: Change to penalty notices

New Government guidelines, which came into effect on 19th August 2024, prevent schools from granting any leave of absence during term time, **unless there are exceptional circumstances**.

A family holiday during term time **does not** fall under the category of 'exceptional circumstances' and therefore the school is unable to grant leave of absence for your family holiday request.

As a result, any absence that your child has during this period will be recorded on our registers as unauthorised. Furthermore, it is now the responsibility of the Academy under the law to inform Leicestershire County Council of this matter who may issue a Penalty Notice in line with this Government policy. If this is the case, you will receive a letter from the County Council outlining the details of the penalty.

A summary of the new national framework for penalty notices is below:

<p>5 Consecutive Days of Term Time Leave.</p> <p>Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days, and for fewer days where this has happened before.</p> <p>10 Sessions of Unauthorised Absence in a 10-week period.</p> <p>Penalty Notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions of absence in a 10-week period.</p>		
<p>Per Parent, Per Child</p> <p>Penalty Notice fines will be issued to each parent, for each child who was absent.</p> <p>For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave will result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.</p>		
<p>First Offence</p> <p>The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:</p> <p>£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.</p> <p>Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.</p>	<p>Second Offence (within 3 years)</p> <p>The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:</p> <p>£160 per parent, per child when paid within 28 days.</p> <p>(No option to pay at £80 level)</p>	<p>Third offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)</p> <p>The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued. The case will proceed to the Magistrates' court.</p> <p>Magistrate's fines can be up to £2,500 per parent, per child.</p>

Library soon to be open!

We are excited to announce that the school library will soon be reopening!

After a half term of refurbishing, adding new computers, enhancing the software so that students can get library books out quickly and easily, a new library phone app that lets you reserve, renew, find and rate books, as well as brand new books, it is an exciting time for our school library.

It will be opening after half term during lunchtime and after school until 4pm so that students can read, complete homework, research and revise during the school day. The library will be open to a limited number of students so that we can make sure that the students using it are safe and have enough space to work and read. Passes can be collected from student reception during breaktime.

I look forward to welcoming our students back to the newly refurbished library!

More information about the new library app to come in the next newsletter.

Dates for your diary

AUTUMN TERM 2024

Mid Term Break	Monday 21 st October to Friday 25 th October 2024
School closed (Teacher day)	Friday 29 th November 2024
Christmas Break	Monday 23 rd December 2024 to Friday 3 rd January 2025

SPRING TERM 2025

School Closed (Teacher day)	Monday 6 th January 2025
School Opens	Tuesday 7 th January 2025
Mid Term Break	Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February 2025
Easter Break	Monday 14 th April to Friday 25 th April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

School Opens	Monday 28 th April 2025
May Day	Monday 5 th May 2025
Mid Term Break	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025
School Closes	Thursday 10 th July 2025

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

IMMUNISATION SESSIONS AT SCHOOL:

The School Aged Immunisation Service from Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust plan to deliver vaccinations:

Seasonal flu vaccination for young people (Year 7 to Year 11)
on Tuesday, 3 December 2024

3-in-1 teenage booster + meningitis ACWY vaccination for
young people (starting from school Year 9)

Please be aware that from 28th October 2024 there will be a small increase on some of the food items in the canteen. The Free School Meals will not be affected.

YEAR 7

I am extremely pleased to say that the vast majority of Year 7's have settled into life at Wigston Academy very well. They have embraced what we have to offer and thrown themselves into our ethos and values, The Wigston Way. There are also lots of students that are attending our extra-curricular clubs and our sports teams; this is fantastic to see. The vast majority of students have shown exemplary behaviour, culminating in the lowest amount of behaviour points out of all five year groups. This is exactly what I expect and I am really proud of them for following our expectations. As a year group we have also got the highest amount of achievement points, over 32,000, in just seven weeks; this is incredible, well done Year 7.

Rewards at the Academy is something we really enjoy giving out and lots of students have received rewards this half term, be that a chocolate bar for being tutee of the week, a lolly and a personalised card from myself and Miss Taybor-Brown to hot chocolate and cookies in the canteen. I look forward to hosting our first rewards assembly on Friday 18th October and the chance to celebrate the year groups success so far.

There is a fantastic opportunity on the horizon for students to go on their first residential trip to Normandy, France. Please ask for a letter if you wish your child to go on this trip.

We also have our Students Council reps in place and they will be meeting soon to discuss how they can affect positive change in our school; a huge congratulations to those student reps.

Personally, it has been a pleasure to start forming positive relationships with the students and you as parents and carers.

If you have queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Hodgkinson (formerly Mr Carletti) – Head of Year 7

Year 8 have had a lovely start to the term. They have settled in well with new classes and new teachers. I would like to say how pleased I am with the maturity they have shown following the change of new settings. Using one of our core skills, resilience, they have successfully transitioned into new groups and have started to build more friendships along the way.

We are all very excited to hear the news of our Devon Trip in June and many are keen to get signed up to take part in this. Each year I have heard lots of positive praise about this trip from both staff and students. Therefore, I would recommend signing up as soon as possible.

My focus again this term is to reward our students who are well behaved and work hard in their lessons. I will be seeking the advice of our new school council team for suggestions and ideas of different ways we can reward our students. Parent and carers, ideas are always welcome too!

Mrs Bentley – Head of Year 8

YEAR 8

European Day of Languages

The Languages Department were pleased to celebrate The European Day of Languages on 26th of September with themed lessons and a bake-off style competition. Students took part in quizzes to identify the language and even taught each other languages they speak at home. Congratulations to Matthew Marriott who won our cake competition!

YEAR 9

It has been a great start for Year 9. We have been following a rewards calendar this half term to encourage positivity amongst the year group. It has been great to see that students are developing their resilience and this continues to develop each week. As you are aware, new sanctions have been implemented for lateness. Please support us by encouraging students to be punctual to lessons and school. Please could you also support us by encouraging students to be kind to one another and to report incidents as and when they happen.

We look forward to seeing the development of this year group as they continue to grow into a fantastic cohort of students.

Miss Bhogal – Head of Year 9

It has been a pleasure getting to know Year 10 over the last few weeks. It has been a very busy half term, students are settling into their GCSE lessons and the majority are working well. I have really enjoyed seeing the year group engaging in their learning.

Our boys football team have made a fantastic start to the season, well done all! We have a wonderful Student Council who have really good, sensible ideas; they have shown great communication skills and I look forward to our next meeting.

Many Year 10 students have shown an interest in the Duke of Edinburgh Award; this is such a valuable experience for them to take part in which will also be a great addition to their College applications in the not so distant future.

A reminder about all students bringing the correct equipment to school every day, this includes a reading book and calculator. We do sell the basics in school, pens (black, red and purple), rulers, erasers and highlighters.

Attendance is vitally important, it is very easy for students to fall behind in coursework and class work if they are having too many absent days from school, it has been proven that attendance does have a direct impact on GCSE results. Every day matters, every lesson counts. It is also really important students arrive to school and lessons on time.

Thank you parents and carers for your support. Well done Year 10, you have made a positive start to this academic year, keep it up!

Miss Bramley - Head of Year 10

YEAR 10



Student Council representatives

YEAR 11

Year 11 have had a great start back. The weeks have flown by due to us working so hard to ensure we have a smooth start to the final and most important year.

With the next round of PPEs starting on the 4th November, after-school interventions have been wonderfully busy. Some students are going that little bit further and working independently in the hub or dining room over break/lunchtimes and after school, which really demonstrates their ambition and 'want' to do well.

This year, we have been joined by Mrs Stansfield who will be working across the year group to ensure that they get the very best GCSE results possible.

A couple of weeks ago Year 11 were excited to receive their target grades and we will be sharing information about their progress regularly throughout the year. (This information will also be shared with you in the post.)

Congratulations to Adam Ahmad and Ernie Atkinson in successfully being voted for the Year 11 Student Presidents along with Jasmin Fielding and Maia Westgarth as Vice Presidents. Both students are currently working hard to ensure they have a strong team supporting them, including appointing two vice presidents. The Student Council are currently organising a Halloween Fair to raise money for charity and to put some more money into our prom fund.

With Year 11 being such an important and busy year, can I please remind you that myself and Ms Brennan are available via email, to answer any questions or concerns.

mbrennan@wigstonmat.org rchapman@wigstonmat.org

Please encourage students to revise regularly over the half term to ensure they are fully prepared for the second round of PPEs. We hope everyone has a lovely break.

Mrs Chapman—Head of Year 11 and Ms Brennan

Year 11 Student Presidents
Adam Ahmad and
Ernie Atkinson and Vice
Presidents Jasmin Fielding
and Maia Westgarth



TOP TEN STUDENTS

Here are our top ten students so far this year. As always, students have been selected for their attitude to learning, good behaviour and excellent attendance. Well done to all of you!

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
William Armel	Eliza Archer	Frank Beresford	Haidee Addison	Millie Brown
Jack Burch	Seth Attenborrow	Gaia Byrne	Gabby Chitsiga	Charlotte Dickson
Ava Dudson	Charlie Bagshaw	Ollie Derbyshire	Leo Gillespie	Poppy Grace
Paloma Dunkley	Rosie-Lee Boat-Rowley	Steven Gao	Oscar Green	Skye Harrison
Esmee Legate	Olivia Glover	Mihika Gotmare	Charlie Haldane	Alexandra Leeson
Cassia Overton-Pears	Zak Harris	Lyla Kendall	Erin Horne	Devina Madhas
Mason Percival	Samuel Harvey	Viaan Naik	Finlay Loines	Adam Preradovic
Bernard Poultney	Stefan Maksimovic	Garret Smith	Lola-Beau Potter	Qasim Sheikh
Morgan Robinson	Lucy Porter	Jacob Spicer	Mehmet Vural	Billy Tinnion
Tulisa Ross	Georgie Williams	Torin Weston	Logan White	Lily Walker

Starting: Wednesday 9th October!

ENGLISH WRITING CLASS

Year 11 - Wednesdays – 3.10pm-4pm - C-Block Corridor



Writing for Success!

- *Need to improve your writing skill?*
- *Need to improve your writing stamina?*
- *Need a quiet space to practise?*

Come along on Wednesdays to practise writing skills for both language and literature papers:

- Essays (all of literature and language)
- Creative writing (language paper 1)
- Transactional writing (language paper 2)

Numeracy Update

Tutor time numeracy

Numeracy is important because it helps individuals develop the essential skills needed to understand and work with numbers. It is a crucial skill that is used in everyday tasks such as managing finances, interpreting data and making informed decisions. Including numeracy as part of the tutor time program helps students build a strong foundation in mathematics, improve problem-solving abilities and enhance critical thinking skills. This, in turn, prepares them for future academic and professional success.

In our program we use a mixture of Numeracy Ninjas, deliberate skill based practice and problem solving to help strengthen students numeracy skills and build confidence.

Confidence plays a crucial role in learning as it empowers individuals to take on challenges, embrace new concepts and persist in the face of difficulties. When learners have confidence in their abilities, they are more likely to participate actively in class, ask questions and seek clarification when needed. Starting their day in this positive way sets students up for a successful day of learning.

Numeracy Ninjas is a 5 minute task where students answer 30 questions. The amount they get correct relates to colour ninjas belt they have. Has your child reached Black belt yet?



Sparx Maths

Maths homework is set every Tuesday and is due in the following Tuesday for all students in years 7 to 11. In maths we use the online platform Sparx Maths.

Sparx Maths Homework is an online learning platform that creates personalised maths homework for students.

We believe that practice makes perfect, so each week, your child's teacher selects the topics that have been taught in class and Sparx builds a personalised set of questions to match your child's current level of understanding.

Our aim is for all children to strive for **100% completion** of their homework.

By consistently using Sparx Maths, your child can build a solid foundation in maths and achieve their full potential.

How does Sparx Maths make sure difficulty levels are correct?

The aim is to provide personalised, challenging and attainable homework that every child can complete each week.

Sparx constantly monitor homework and listen to teachers, so we can match your child's understanding. Each question also has a short video tutorial to help your child if they are stuck.

By progressing through each homework on their own, with the support from you and their teacher when needed, your child will have the best opportunity to answer 100% of the questions correctly.

How can I help my child with their Sparx Maths Homework?

We believe your child can answer all of the questions correctly in their homework, but we know there may be times when they struggle, so how can you support your child with their homework?

Our top three tips for you and your child when using Sparx Maths...

- Encourage them to tackle it on their own
- Nudge them to use the support videos
- Suggest that they start early to give plenty of time for help if they need it.

Why is my child encouraged to do written work as well as online?

At Sparx Maths, we believe that written work is essential in supporting your child's understanding of maths and to help them create positive habits.

We provide bookwork checks to encourage your child to do written work when they're answering questions in Sparx Maths. These checks remind students to write down the question and their working, which is really helpful if they get stuck as teachers can see where they are going wrong.

How to log on?

Go to <https://sparxmaths.com>

Click "Log in" in top right hand corner on the drop down select "Student login"

Type in the Wigston Academy when prompted for school

Use Microsoft Login big blue button and use school email and password

Sparx Maths

Sparx Maths
Student Login
You're logging in to Sparx at [redacted]
[Not your school?](#)

Log in to Sparx using Microsoft

or

Use your Sparx login

Username:

Password:
 [Show](#)

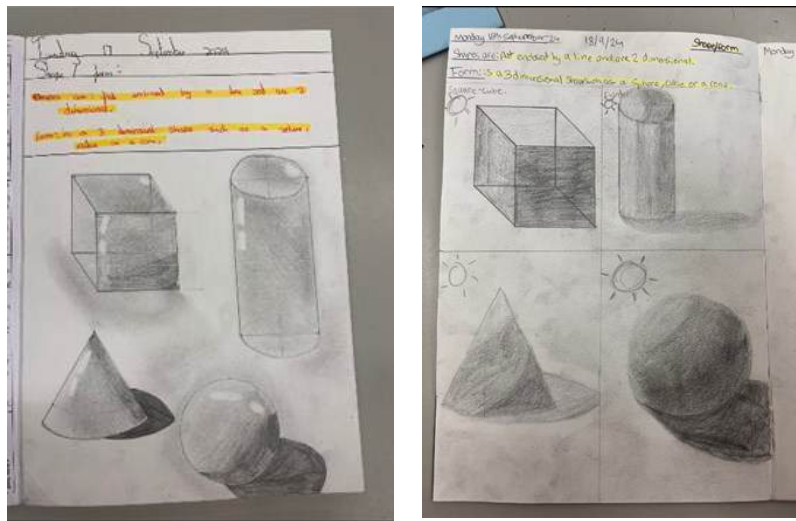
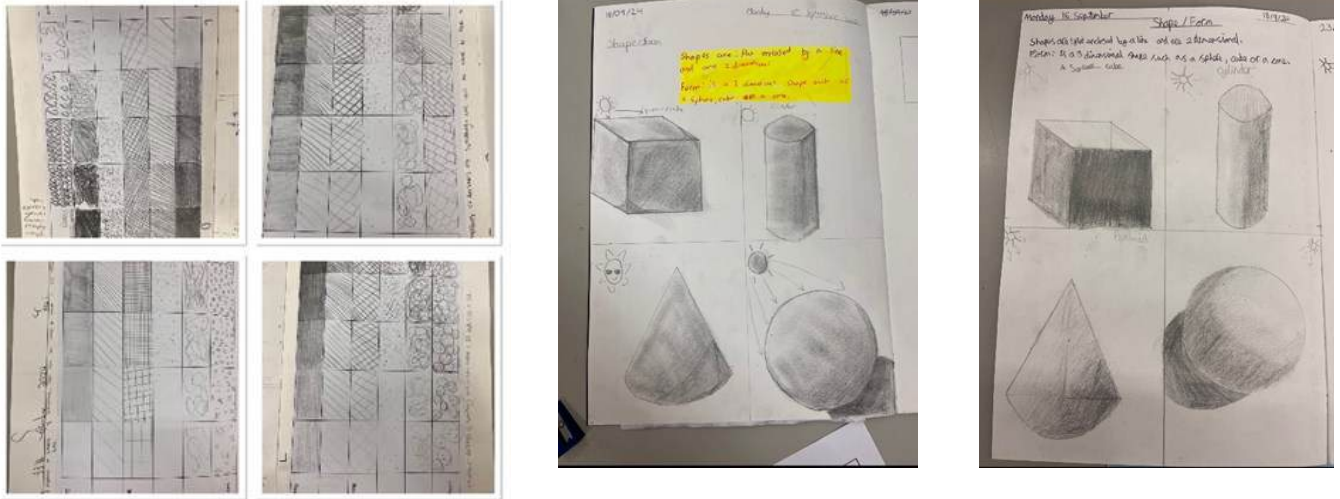
[Forgotten Sparx login details?](#) [Log in](#)

[New Sparx user?](#)

ADT Update

We're excited to showcase the work of our students in Years 7 to 9 who are on their first rotation within the ADT subjects.

Year 7 art students have been looking at the formal elements and currently focussing on tone. There were some excellent mark making and shading techniques being used:



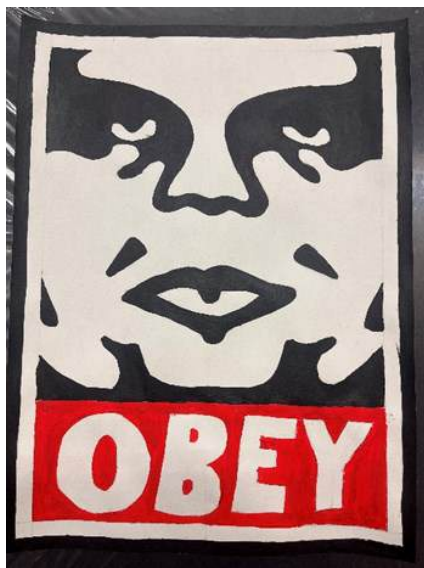
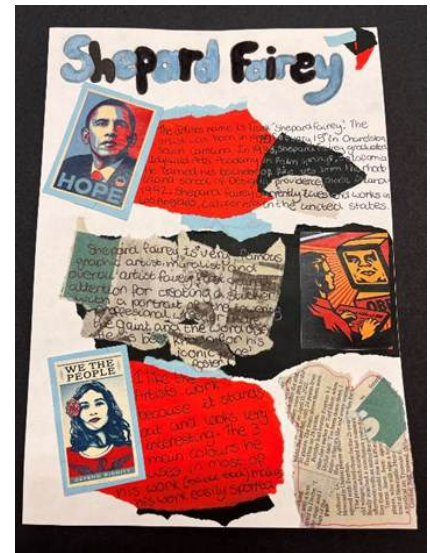
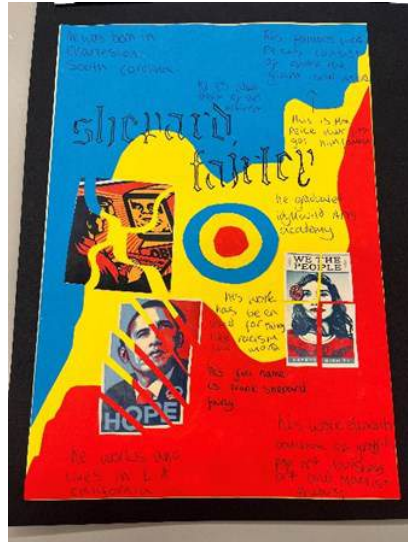
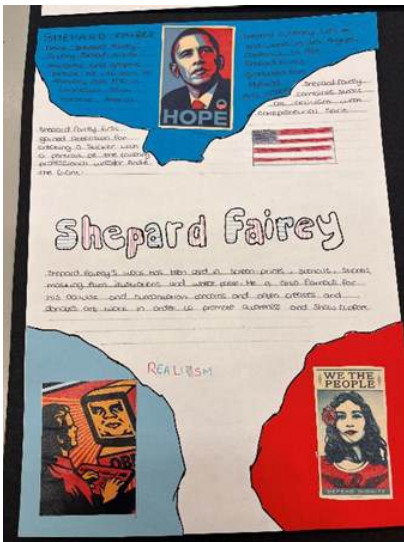
Year 9 this year are experiencing shorter more intense rotations to enable them to experience all the subjects we have to offer before making their GCSE option choices.

Year 9 graphics students have been going back to basics and learning how to draw in perspective.

Some beautiful colour work showcasing the blending techniques students have been learning:



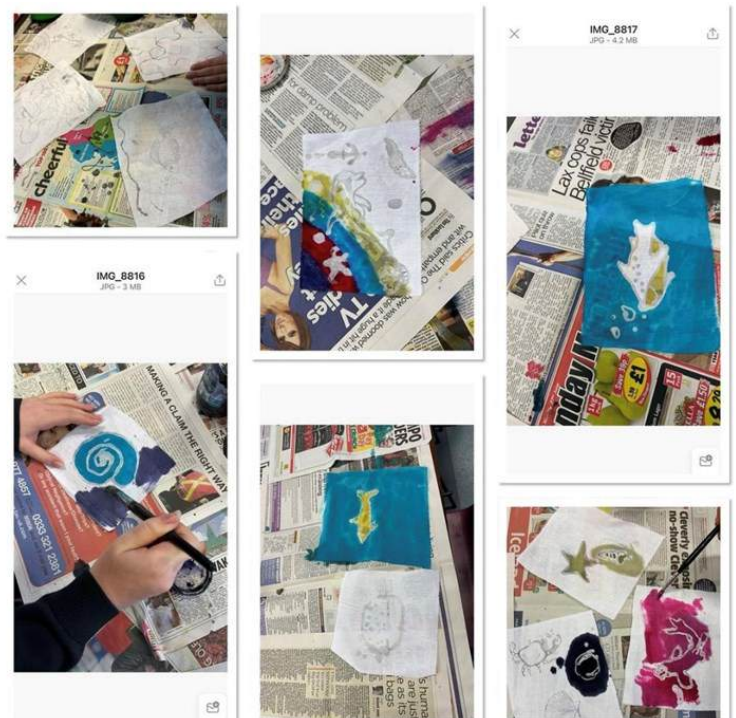
Year 9 art students creating artwork inspired by artist Shepard Fairey:



Year 9 DT students working on their anthropometric data project where they were measuring hand sizes of students in the class and then calculating the average:



Here we have examples of Year 10 textiles students exploring batik and using fabric dyes to create samples inspired by under the sea:



PE UPDATE

It has been the usual busy start for the PE department with the start of the extra-curricular clubs and also our first sets of fixtures.

Extra-Curricular Clubs

The Autumn term timetable is out and currently includes Boys Football, Girls Football, Netball and Badminton. Our clubs have, once again, proven extremely popular...well done to everyone that has attended so far.

All clubs are free and finish at 4pm. Even if you are not or do not want to be in a team, come along to training to have fun with friends, meet new people and develop your skills!

Boys Football

The Football season kicked off in early September with league fixtures and the start of the National Cup competition.

The first league fixtures saw all 5 of our teams face Beauchamp. The results were:

Year 7 Boys WON 9-0

Year 8 Boys WON 3-2

Year 9 Boys DREW 1-1 – WON 6-5 ON PENALTIES

Year 10 Boys WON 3-1

Year 11 Boys WON 5-1

The second set of fixtures were against Gartree.

The results were:

Year 7 Boys DREW 2-2 – LOST ON PENALTIES

Year 8 Boys LOST 6-5

Year 9 Boys WON 3-2

Year 10 Boys WON 4-2

Year 11 Boys LOST 5-0



Meanwhile, in the National Cup, the Year 8 team travelled to Rugby to face Harris CofE Academy. With only 11 men available, the boys showed great resilience to draw 3-3 and then go on to win on penalties. The Year 7 and 11 Boys teams travelled to Robert Smyth in Round 1. The Year 7 team lost to a very strong Robert Smyth side, whilst the 11's lost out on penalties after drawing 3-3.

Netball

The Netball season also started in September as 4 of our teams played Gartree in their first fixtures:

Year 8 LOST 14-2

Year 9 LOST 20-16

Year 10 WON 13-6

Year 11 LOST



PE Twitter – Up-to-date Information

To keep up to date with information from the PE department, please follow our Twitter account:
[@WigstonAcadPE](https://twitter.com/WigstonAcadPE)

COMMUNITY NEWS

What's happening this term?

What a great start to this half term in school for our Community Team. We took part in the Macmillan Coffee morning and organised a staff cake sale to help raise money and support those living with cancer. We also promoted and launched our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award to our Year 10 students. Below is all the community events and dates coming up this term.

Macmillan Cake Sale



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) 2024/2025

We have recently started to promote the Bronze Award for Duke of Edinburgh to our current Year 10 students. We have received over 75 letters of interest, so we are hopeful we will have great numbers enrolling on to the course later this month. The award is an amazing opportunity for our students to try new things, work as a team and get active. We have also launched our Silver award for Duke of Edinburgh which our Year 11 and College students can get involved in. If you have any questions about the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, please do not hesitate to speak to Mr Carton or Mrs Parbery.

Wigston Academy – Learn – Aspire – Achieve



Community & Charity events happening this term 2023

Date	Charity Event
7 th Oct – 18 th Oct 2024	Sponsor a Child Raffle (Year 7 & 8 Only)
4 th – 8 th Nov 2024	Poppy Selling for Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12 th Nov 2024	Anti-Bullying Week – Odd Socks Day (Not Year 11)
Friday 15 th Nov 2024	Children In Need – Non Uniform Day (Not Year 11)
18 th – 2 nd Dec 2024	Chocolate Elf Collection
Thursday 12 th Dec 2024	Christmas Jumper Day (Donate & Swap to be launched before)





Year 8 Exmouth Camp 2025

When - June 16th – June 20th 2025
Where – Exmouth, Devon
Who – Year 8
How many – up to 150 students
Cost - £395 (TBC)



Letters are available to all year 8 students today.
Reply slip and deposit deadline date –

Friday 11th October 2024



Performing Arts

Performing Arts have had a very busy start to the academic year with a bumper year of performances and celebrations planned. We started the season with a quiz, organised by our Year 13 Student Presidents. We raised £529 for LOROS, an incredibly important charity.

Performance wise, we are currently working on WAT Live which is being performed on 29th and 30th of October. We have over 100 students involved in musical theatre, dance, and drama. It has been a very busy start to the term and we are thrilled with the amount of new Year 7 students that we have involved in the extra-curricular opportunities we offer.

Alongside this, we are thinking about our Christmas programme. Winter Wonderland will be performed on 18th and 19th December and we are excited to bring lots of Christmas content to get you all in the festive mood.

Our 2024 musical is We Will Rock You, a fantastic musical featuring the hits of Queen. We are extremely excited to bring this fantastic music to life. We are very pleased to welcome back Sarah Varnam who will be our director for the show, alongside our dance teacher Mrs Smith, and other volunteers who will bring the very best out of our performing students. As a team we are encouraged by numbers, having over 100 students sign up, and the audition process is under way.

We then look ahead to Summer Fiesta in June and our Key Stage 3 Talent Show to finish the year off. Tickets are available for all our productions and can be purchased through our website at www.wigstoncollege.org www.wigstonacademy.org follow the production ticket link. These can also be purchased from the Academy reception with cash or cheque. Please come and support our amazing students involved in our productions, some that are performing for the very first time. Thank you for your support of Performing Arts and we look forward to seeing you there.

Miss Watkiss

Head of Performing Arts

WAT PRODUCTIONS

2024 - 2025 SEASON

WAT PRODUCTIONS

QUIZ NIGHT

TUESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2024

VENUE : WIGSTON COLLEGE
TIME : 7:00PM

OUR BAR WILL BE OPEN | GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS ON THE NIGHT

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO **LOROS**

Proceeds from Loros Laboratory for 6-11 year olds

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

QUIZ NIGHT
08/10/2024

WAT PRODUCTIONS

WAT Live

THE SHOW IN A SHOW

29TH & 30TH OCTOBER 2024
WIGSTON COLLEGE, STATION ROAD, LE18 2DS

FIRST PRODUCTION OF THE SEASON

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

WAT LIVE
29/10/2024 - 30/10/2024

WAT PRODUCTIONS

Annual WINTER WONDERLAND

18th & 19th December 2024

WIGSTON COLLEGE
STATION ROAD, WIGSTON, LE18 2DS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

WINTER WONDERLAND
18/12/2024 - 19/12/2024

WAT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

WE WILL ROCK YOU

SCHOOL EDITION

Music and Lyrics by QUEEN
Story and Script by BEN ELTON

"WE WILL ROCK YOU: School Edition" is presented through special arrangements with and all authorized performance royalties are managed by: Performance Rights Worldwide (PRW), www.thewillrockyou.co.uk

12TH-15TH MARCH 2025

PERFORMED AT WIGSTON COLLEGE, LE18 2DS

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY COLLEGE RECEPTION
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

WE WILL ROCK YOU
12/03/2025 - 15/03/2025

WAT PRODUCTIONS

Summer Fiesta

25TH JUNE & 26TH JUNE 2025
WIGSTON COLLEGE, STATION ROAD, LE18 2DS

FINAL PRODUCTION OF THE SEASON

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION
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SUMMER FIESTA
25/06/2025 - 26/06/2025

WAT PRODUCTIONS

WAAGOT TALENT

KS3

XXXX

FEATURING 4 GUEST JUDGES

WEDNESDAY 9TH JULY 2025

VENUE: WIGSTON COLLEGE, LE18 2DS

ALL PROCEEDS TO GO TO A CHARITY CHOSEN AT A LATER DATE

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION
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WA'S GOT TALENT
09/07/2025

ALL TICKETS ON SALE NOW

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION OR ONLINE VIA OUR WEBSITES
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS PAGE)

Careers Update

Careers – it's so much more than just talking about jobs!

Find out more about the careers programme at Wigston College and Wigston Academy <https://wigstonmat.org/careers-home/>

2024-2025

This year we will focus on how parents and carers can support their child with the decision they make throughout the year linked to careers. This will include:

- Choosing GCSE subjects
- Post 16 pathways
- Post 18 pathways

We also make sure that parents and carers know about any career events that are taking place at the Academy and College in advance. This will enable you to discuss the event and how young people can make the most of the opportunities they are offered.

Careers Interviews

Students are offered careers interviews several times throughout their school and college life. Below is more information about what a careers interview is and how you, as parents and carers, can support your son and daughter to make the most of their meetings.

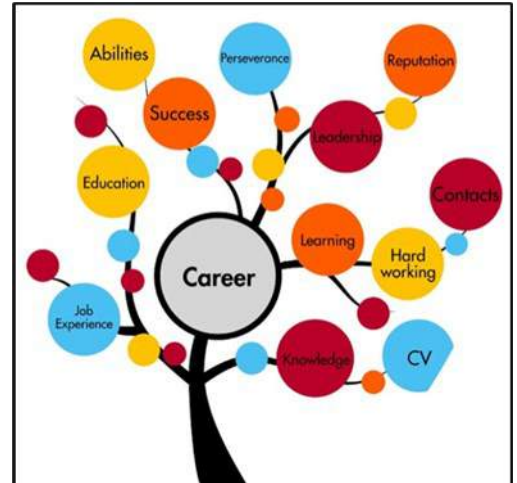
What is a careers meeting/interview?

It is a one-on-one meeting in school where the students meet with a careers advisor. They will provide insights into Further Education and Higher Education opportunities, voluntary work, Technical and Apprenticeship support, employment opportunities, detailed careers-based advice and guide young people with their specialist knowledge. During the meeting, their interpersonal (traits and attributes) and communication skills and qualifications are discussed.

These meetings provide benefits, including exchanging ideas, learning about job opportunities, gaining career advice, building confidence, and getting answers to your career-related questions. Whether your child seeking guidance or exploring new paths, a careers meeting can be valuable for their growth.

What will be discussed and how will it help my child?

- How the Careers Team can support your child's career journey during their time at Wigston Academy and Wigston College
- To understand their strengths, motivations, interests and values
- To understand their learning styles, work-related skills, knowledge and abilities
- Together we will explore their future options and make decisions
- Together we will explore options to gain experience and confidence in decision making
- Help them to reflect on their own skills and experience
- Help them to understand the labour market and feel equipped to research relevant options
- To help them identify suitable resources and support relating to their needs and circumstances
- Support them in researching career options and work or further study opportunities



How does my child make the best of the appointment?

- Think of questions to ask
 - How long will it take me to become, for example, an IT coder?
 - What qualifications are best if I want to become.....
 - Do I need to complete an apprenticeship for that role or would it be better for me to do a course?
- I have low predicted grades, does that mean I'm restricted in what I can achieve?
- Does studying A Levels always mean I have to do a degree?
- Do I have to do A Levels or can I do something else?
- Is university right for my career choices or their other routes that can help me achieve this?
- Can a degree apprenticeship help me more than the degree route, what is the difference?
- Complete the online careers programme Xello to bring ideas to the meeting
 - Link is on the intranet and time in PSHCE and Life skills is used to help the student get started
- What does your child want to find out during their appointment?
- What is important to them? Money, qualifications, a particularly pathway to their career?
 - What are the drivers to their chosen career choice?
- Being self-aware of their hobbies, interest, subjects and how they are taught
- Be prepared to be asked questions
- Be really honest and open during the appointment so we can help
- Be open-minded about different routes into their chosen career

How will my child remember everything that was talked about?

They will be given an action plan of all the information discussed in the meeting. They will receive one every time they attend a meeting with a careers advisor. There will be actions to complete. You can help your son or daughter by asking them about the interview and what they need to do.

How can my child book an appointment?

You or your child can do this through their form tutor or Pastoral Team and also email us on careers@wigstonmat.org

Year 11 - Army visit – Wednesday 18th September 2024

The Army came to Wigston Academy to give an in-depth talk about career opportunities within the Army and Armed Forces.

SSgt Bufton and his colleague came to talk to a select few students in Year 11 regarding routes into the Army. They discussed with the students the different job roles and responsibilities, apprenticeships, additional qualification, A Level bursaries, degree - along with the bursaries to pay for the degree programme - and degree apprenticeships. Students were interested in not just the serving roles but the support roles mentioned. The students asked lots of intriguing questions and SSgt Bufton was happy to share his experiences of working in the Army.

Students gave amazing feedback to staff and the Careers Team about the event and they are all looking forward to meeting them again.



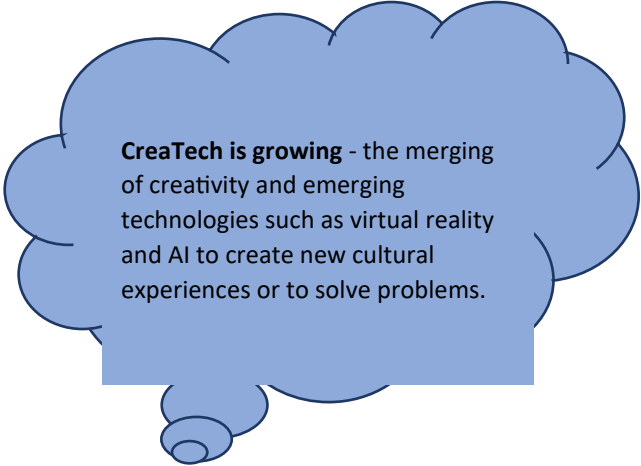
Spotlight Careers

Creative Industry

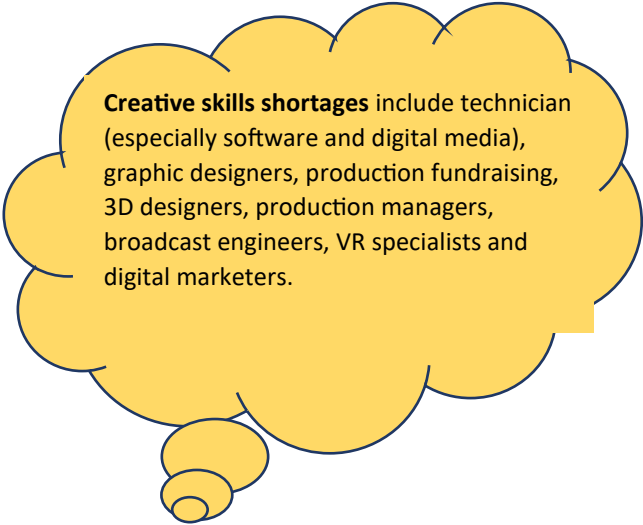
Within the Creative and Digital industry in Leicester and Leicestershire, the sector is the fastest growing sector and have doubled its workforce in the last 10 years. The sector has grown at 1.5 times the rate of the wider UK economy over the past decade, and globally the UK is the fifth largest exporter of creative service. UK gaming is doing particularly well.

Local companies in Leicester and Leicestershire

- We-Fab
- Digital Ethos
- Standout
- Champions (UK) Plc
- Trident
- Pyramid International
- Go Inspire
- Rare Ltd
- Bloc Digital
- Creative 62
- Colab Creation
- Blueprint Interiors
- Quiet Storm



CreaTech is growing - the merging of creativity and emerging technologies such as virtual reality and AI to create new cultural experiences or to solve problems.



Creative skills shortages include technician (especially software and digital media), graphic designers, production fundraising, 3D designers, production managers, broadcast engineers, VR specialists and digital marketers.

What Could you earn from this industry?

TV, Video and Audio Engineers	£22K-£45K
Digital Marketing Officer	£17K-£34K
Make-Up Artist	£18K-£30K
Exhibition Designer	£18K-£38K
User Experience (UX) Designer	£22K-£38K
Graphic Designer	£18K-£40K
Advertising Art Director	£18K-£40K

Please see further information for a deeper dive into this industry [LLEP WORLD OF WORK LEICESTERSHIRE](#)
The World of work booklet is used to be able to see the most up to date information regarding labour market information in Leicester and Leicestershire.

Local opportunities currently available:

Senior Event Planner	Apprentice Space animator
Graphic Designer	CAD Designer
Marketing apprentice	Adventure Tutor
Events Photographer	Apprentice Content Creator

Many different apprenticeships within this sector can be found at: [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

COLLEGE UPDATE

It has been a fast paced and productive start back to life here in the Sixth Form. It has been great to welcome back all of our Year 13 students and along with them it has been a pleasure to welcome our new Year 12 cohort. Students have settled in well to College life and the atmosphere has been one of focus and determination and this is great to see. New students have had to take in a lot of information of the past few weeks including all their new subject, teachers and Best Learner strategies that, if they can master, are going to lay the foundations for success over their time with us.

Year 13 PPEs

As I am sure you are aware, the Year 13 students have their next set of PPEs fast approaching. These exams are a fantastic opportunity for students to get an understanding of where they currently are in terms of what knowledge has stuck and where their current gaps are. This will then inform them and their staff of the areas of focus moving forward as we target our sights on that all-important summer examination season.

The PPEs will commence the week beginning 14th October. Each student should by now have received their individual examination timetable and should be revising accordingly. If anyone has any questions, queries or concerns be that student, parent or carer, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We wish them all the best of luck.

How to be a Successful Sixth Former / Meet the tutor Event (Year 12)

It was good to meet so many parents and students at this event. There were some really informative presentations for parents, carers and students alike informing them of what is needed to be successful as a Sixth Form student studying demanding level 3 courses. The evening included a presentation from Mrs Dobney our Academic Mentor on our aforementioned Best Learner strategies and study techniques. Mrs Dobney was well supported by some very accomplished and insightful presentations from our Year 13 Students Alice Bettinson and Benjamin Spurling who covered topics such as the importance of time management and organisation. A big thank you to all involved.

We kick-started Black History Month with a Year 12 and 13 theatre trip to see *The Mountaintop* at Curve Leicester. The review below is from Serene Atkins of Year 13:

“The only way I could start this is by saying WOW. The *Mountaintop* was an experience that not only highlighted the presence of racial issues in society today but shed light on the roots of black injustice. The dynamic between Ray Strasser-King and Justina Kehinde (the actors that play Dr Martin Luther King and Camae) was truly beautiful to watch. Together they created a world where you could rationalise your thoughts and more importantly the thoughts of Dr Martin Luther King in his final hours.

It was so interesting to learn on a deeper level what Dr King may have been thinking the night he readied himself to fight for the Memphis sanitation workers. Putting the character of Camae into this was so impactful, as it added the humanising qualities to Dr King that I perceived to be necessary to the plays message. To me, it was about making a space where Dr King was to be seen as a normal human being above all else, with normal human struggles. Having him come face to face with death meant he was feeling the innate emotion of fear that everyone can relate to, immersing us into his story. Martin Luther King was an incredible man that has a legacy that will continue forever, and *The Mountaintop* allows us to see that society is forever changing, and the “baton” of black individuals facing injustice is forever being passed on, as we take inspiration from our predecessors to fight for our place and our worth.”



Continuing in this vein, we have had the first of many meetings held by our student on the Culture and Diversity Committee as they begin to plan ways in which we can recognise and celebrate the richness and wealth of different backgrounds and heritage here at the College. The main topic of discussion is what they would like to plan for our Culture Day in November. It was a fabulous meeting full of great ideas and energy and was chaired by our Student Leaders Naomi Thompson (Head of Committee, Freya Mistry Assistant Head of Committee and Serene Atkins as Student Vice President).



And finally, we have welcomed two very impactful guest speakers to our Life Skills programme recently. Firstly we had the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service deliver an incredibly hard hitting presentation “The Fatal Four” aimed at young drivers. This was followed a week later by the also impactful and emotional presentation from the Be A Lifesaver Team about the importance of organ and blood donation offering students a chance to sign up for these valuable and lifesaving programmes.



ALUMNI UPDATES CLASS OF 2021

Congratulations Sadie! Sadie has now completed her Nursing Degree at DMU. Graduation isn't for a while yet, this is her last day as a student nurse. She will commence her job in HDU in January 2025. We are looking forward to Sadie joining us to speak to students interested in pursuing nursing as a career. Good luck Sadie and keep in touch



Congratulations Ellys! After achieving a First in her Sports & Exercise Science Bsc honours at the University of Nottingham. Ellys is now at Glasgow University studying for her Masters in Sports & Exercise Science with Sports Medicine. Good luck Ellys and keep in touch!



Alumni, please keep in touch & let us know what you are doing now. We'd love to hear from you!

WATER BOTTLES

- PLEASE CAN ALL STUDENTS BRING A WATER BOTTLE INTO SCHOOL. IT CAN BE REFILLED WITHIN SCHOOL.
- KEEPING HYDRATED IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF A CHILD'S HEALTH. IT CAN HELP WITH CONCENTRATION AND PREVENTS MANY HEADACHES/ILLNESSES.

WIGSTON COLLEGE

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY 6TH NOVEMBER | 5:00PM - 7:30PM



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- Meet our Students
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