

December 2024

PARENT BULLETIN

WELCOME

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is fast approaching and at the College there is a flurry of festive challenges with inter-form competitions including: creating hampers for a local charity; making a Christmas tree using recycled materials and a festive door competition, all of which support wellbeing and also giving back to the community.

As well as this, students are continuing to prepare for live exams in January (Cambridge Technicals/BTEC) or their final exams in the Summer term. Year 13 have successfully completed their PPE (mock) examinations and have had feedback from their teachers and on-site academic mentor.

It has been a really productive half term, including our students joining the Academy to mark Remembrance Day; our second Culture Day; theatre trips and Leicester Tigers hosting our Cambridge Technicals Sport students. To finish the term, we are looking forward to announcing competition winners, Christmas jumper day and our festive lunch at the College on 18th December and the final show of this year, Winter Wonderland. Thank you to Year 12 and 13 students for their hard work this year and to you their parents and carers for your continued support.

Mrs Ailie Pollon
Headteacher—Wigston College
Wigston College

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the festive season approaches, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and experiences we have shared during this busy and successful Autumn term.

The term has been packed with opportunities for learning, growth, and creativity, both inside and outside the classroom. It has been a pleasure to see our students engaging in so many enriching activities, demonstrating their talents, and embracing new challenges.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

- A group of our Year 7 and Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to visit Cambridge University, inspiring them to aim high and consider the possibilities for their future.
- Students in Years 7 to 9 enjoyed a captivating performance from the Education Theatre Company, which delivered important messages in an engaging and thought-provoking way.
- Our annual WAT Live Show featured incredible performances from students across all year groups, showcasing their hard work, dedication, and creativity.
- Five of our sports teams crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions.

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Looking ahead, we are excited to share more festive moments with our school community:

- We are eagerly anticipating our Winter Wonderland production, set to take place in the final week of term – a true celebration of the festive season and our students' artistic flair.
- **Christmas Jumper Day** took place on **12th December**, when students were invited to wear their most cheerful festive attire.
- Our **festive lunch** will be available to **Academy students** on **17th December**.

This term has been a testament to the hard work and commitment of both our students and staff. I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your continued support in making these opportunities possible.

Warm regards,

Mr Chris Conlon
Headteacher—Wigston Academy

Last Day

The Academy and College will finish at 12.20pm on the last day of the Autumn term, Friday 20th December, with the exception of Year 11 students who have not completed the required NEA work.

We are allowing our students to come to school in non-uniform/non dress code on this day. However, as usual we would ask that students refrain from dyeing their hair or wearing items which would pose a health and safety risk (e.g. high heeled shoes, crocs, long false nails). We also ask that students are appropriately dressed.

The bus company are aware and will provide buses at this earlier time. However, if you wish your son or daughter to remain at the Academy until the usual time of 3.00pm please contact their Head of Year so that we can make the necessary arrangements for them. We will be extending break time to enable students to eat before leaving.

Start of Term

Students return to the **Academy on Tuesday 7th January at the usual time** – gates will close at 8.30am. **Sixth form students will return to College on 7th January at 10.00am**, with the exception of **Year 12 BTEC Science students who have an exam and need to be at the College for 8.35am**.

At the start of each half term we run a range of activities and tasks as part of our reboot at the Academy and an opportunity for students to be reminded of our rules and expectations; to reflect on our ethos and values and to refresh key skills including revision and note taking to support them in accessing their learning.

As we prepare to close for the holidays, we wish you and your family a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year, ready for another term filled with opportunities and achievements.

Mr Chris Conlon
Headteacher
Wigston Academy

Mrs Ailie Pollon
Headteacher
Wigston College

DIARY DATES

Christmas Break Monday 23rd December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

SPRING TERM 2025

School Closed (Teacher day) Monday 6th January 2025

School Opens Tuesday 7th January 2025

Mid Term Break Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February 2025

Easter Break Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

School Opens Monday 28th April 2025

May Day Monday 5th May 2025

Mid Term Break Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

School Closes Thursday 10th July 2025

Attendance Concerns:

Please note that if your child's attendance drops below 95% then our Educational Welfare Officer may meet with them.

YEAR 7

As we come to the end of 2024, it is nice to take this time to reflect on how well our Year 7's transitioned from Primary to Secondary School. This would have been a very exciting and nervous time for our students and we are proud of how they have conducted themselves. We are very pleased with how well our students have settled at Wigston Academy. The Year 7 students have followed our ethos and values and have learnt to adapt in becoming more responsible and resilient. We have enjoyed getting to know our students, helping and supporting them whilst building positive relationships with them.

Our focus for this long half term was to recognise and reward our students for their continuous hard work. It has been a pleasure to take part in lots of different reward activities that include hot chocolate mornings, in-lesson rewards, tutor rewards, vouchers, raffles, reward assemblies and much more.

As Year 7 Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year, would like to congratulate our Year 7 netball team who played in their first ever matches for the school in the Oadby and Wigston Tournament. The students won every game and were crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions. They will now go on to represent the area in the County Cup.

We hope Year 7 have a lovely seasonal break and recharge their batteries ready to have a positive start to 2025!

Mr Hodgkinson & Miss Tabor-Brown – Head of Year 7 and Assistant Head of Year 7

2024 has flown by and we will soon be celebrating the New Year. This is a perfect time to have a fresh start and to set new personal goals. This can be both in and out of school.

One area that I do feel some Year 8 need to improve their punctuality and time-keeping. This could therefore be a target for students. With support and encouragement from parents and carers, I feel we can make big improvements with this.

Over the last half term, I have focused on rewarding our well-behaved students and I have enjoyed taking part in hot chocolate mornings and issuing lots of different rewards. We are all very excited about our Christmas rewards assembly and students have been reminded about our expectations.

Wishing Year 8 and their families season greetings and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Bentley – Head of Year 8

We have been really pleased to hear of our student's experiences with work shadowing this half term. It has been lovely to speak with students about the things they did to and learnt during this time. We hope that this experience will encourage them to consider their GCSE options and to also think about what their career may look like in the future.

Additionally, we have been really pleased to see that students are making improvements to their punctuality to school and lessons. Please could we kindly ask that you speak with students about ensuring they are on time to their lessons and also school.

As always, should you need to contact the Head of Year or Assistant Head of Year, you can do so by emailing us - HOY- rbhogal@wigstonmat.org or - AHOY- zhoult@wigstonmat.org

Miss Bhogal and Miss Hoult – Head of Year 9 and Assistant Head of Year 9

Year 10 have had a very busy term. The vast majority have been working really well in lessons. It has been pleasing to see so many students using revision strategies, as this will help them when it comes to GCSE exams in the not too distant future.

After the Christmas break Year 10 will sit their first set of PPE exams. This will be the week commencing 20th January 2025. At this point in Year 10 we expect students to be revising regularly at home and recommend 20 minutes at a time. To help support this, we have homework club after school which all students are welcome to attend.

Thank you for ensuring your child returns their work experience letters; this will be such a valuable experience for them to take part in; I know many are really looking forward to it.

This term has flown by so quickly, but it is vitally important students are up to date with course work as it is very easy to fall behind which can be overwhelming when it comes to deadlines. A reminder that we do sell basic equipment in school however this does not include calculators so can you please ensure your child is fully equipped each day.

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Attendance is vitally important to ensure our students get the best possible outcomes. We do understand that children get poorly, especially at this of year, however it is important they attend school if they can, 'every day matters, every lesson counts'. We have a significant number of students who still have 95% + attendance, well done all of you!

A huge well done to the Boys' Football Team, who are doing a really great job, we are proud of you and your coach Mr Dandolo for producing such great results.

Year 10, it has been a pleasure getting to know you and I look forward to seeing you back in school after the Christmas holidays ready for another busy, hardworking half term.

Thank you to all parents and carers who consistently support school, I wish you all a happy new year 2025.

Miss Bramley - Head of Year 10.

As we are nearing the end of this long term, we are feeling extremely positive and encouraged by the amount of work and effort that we are seeing in lessons and during the after-school interventions. Myself and Ms. Brennan have moved up to the learning hub to ensure we can fully support the students with their independent study at social times and after school.

The students have completed another round of PPEs this term and have received a second lot of predicted grades to ensure they know exactly where they are at this point of the year and what work needs to be done to get them closer to their target grades.

We have shifted our focus this term to progress and the Year 11 Team have started to meet with parents and students to ensure we are all working together to make sure everything possible is being done to reach their full potential.

Post 16 applications should have now been completed. Please remind your child to regularly check their personal emails to ensure they do not miss messages or interviews.

The wonderful School Council arranged a fantastic Halloween Fayre and raised over £100; they are now in the process of arranging more events to raise more money to go towards our end of year prom.

A reminder that the hub is open every day after school and intervention sessions are on most evenings. Students should be revising for at least one hour every day. We have lots of resources in the hub and students are welcome to come and help themselves, the more revision students put in now the less stress and work will need to be crammed in next year.

Thank you for your support this year; please contact me or the Year 11 Team if you are unsure of anything during this very important year.

Keep up the good work Year 11. We wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Chapman and the Year 11 team

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
Khaleesi Allsop	Logan Akmal	Gaia Byrne	Haidee Addison	Kate Casey
Bogdan Cernei	Eliza Archer	Lily-Mae Crewe	Joseph Barker	Charlotte Dickson
Evie Colver	Charlie Bagshaw	Lacey Farrell	Nyasha Chikuni	Faith Hoy
Isabella Formela	Stephanie Biju	Steven Gao	Gabby Chitsiga	Alexandra Leeson
Eder Hormaechea	Isabelle Derry	Mihika Gotmare	Amelia Dubbins	Devina Madhas
Jaipreet Johal	Sanvika Gurram	Violet Hammond	Grace Garner	James Martin
Esmae Legate	Zak Harris	Lyla Kendall	Riley Hudson	Zac Marquis
Ella Lievers	Theia Lievers	Izzabelle Kopaczal	Davina Joy King Daniels Bala	Adam Preradovic
Cassia Overton-Pears	Stefan Maksimovic	Japnoor Singh	Anya Timbota	Qasim Sheikh
Faith Pickard	Callum Noble	Torin Weston	Mehmet Vural	Billy Tinnion



Black History Month at Wigston Academy



Reclaiming the Narrative:

This October, Wigston Academy Trust celebrated Black History Month with a range of activities across the month. The theme this year was **'reclaiming the narrative'**.

The activities included two inter-form Black History Month quizzes where students were immersed into UK black history. Mrs Nemaura also led Black History Month assemblies across all year groups which was well received by students. Students also viewed videos of influential black people in Leicester, shown during tutor time. This included Professor Ivan Browne who is a professor of Public Health at De Montfort University and Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock whom is the Chancellor of the University of Leicester.

Additionally, a cultural dance event was held after school at the Academy led by Angel Academy where students got the opportunity to learn to dance and choreograph Jamaican and afro beats music. Furthermore, there were hair braiding workshops held at the Academy across both lunch breaks for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 where students learnt how to braid using a hairdressing head. This was led by one of our College students, Favour, and again was appreciated by students. The Trust would like to thank Favour for volunteering to support this activity.

Lastly, on the final day of October, the canteen offered a Black History Month menu at the College and Academy, offering jerk chicken wraps and paninis. This was very successful and was sold out within minutes. Students enjoyed the Black History Month activities and are looking forward to future events.



Cultural Dance Group

Literacy at Wigston Academy

Wigston Academy's Author of the Half Term—Onjali Q Raúf

Onjali Qatara Raúf MBE is a British author and the founder of the two NGOs: Making Herstory, a woman's rights organisation tackling the abuse and trafficking of women and girls in the UK; and O's Refugee Aid Team, which raises awareness and funds to support refugee frontline aid organisations.

Her stories are enthralling and take those that read them on an adventure, a rollercoaster of emotions and empathy that no other books can. You will come out of these books feeling a sense of empowerment and purpose. With amazing characters and exciting storylines, these novels (all of which can be found in our library) are a must read for adults and children alike!



The Boy at the Back of the...
2018



The Night Bus Hero
2020



The Star Outside My...
2019



The Lion Above the Door
2021



The Letter with the Golden...
2024



The Girl at the Front of the...
2024



The Great (Food) Bank...
2021



The Day We Met The Que...
2020



Hope on the Horizon: A...
2022



Where Magic Grows: Uniqu...
2023



Where Magic Grows:...
2023

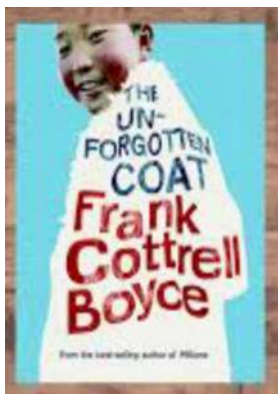


Heroes Like Us: Two Stories
2022

If you liked those, then read...

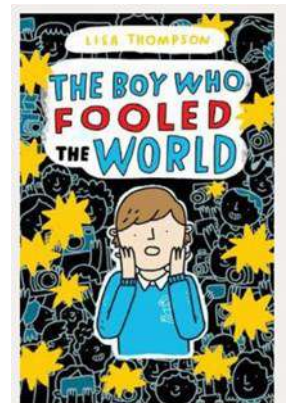


Recommendations from Onjali herself!



“I remember being utterly intrigued by the cover of Frank Cottrell-Boyce's *The Unforgotten Coat*, and that intrigue lasted from the first photo to the last word. It's a staggeringly beautiful, insightful story into the world of two Mongolian refugee brothers and their hilarious "Good Guide" Julie. From Mongolia to Liverpool is an epic journey to make, and a hilarious one too when soccer, school uniforms and British slang coupled with nomadic traditions is brought into the mix. A perfect follow-on to any other book being read, ever! And even more so if you're ready for a deeper swim into more refugee-and-school based stories.”

“Lisa Thompson's *The Boy Who Fooled the World* is a natural follow-on for anyone salivating for more stories centring on 'ordinary' children having extraordinary adventures. I loved reading of Cole's spectacular rise to fame and navigating a world of truths versus lies and the consequences of both. It's a brilliant, funny and eye-opening heady story, bringing into play what it feels like being an outsider one moment, to being suddenly, giddily famous. A sensation Ahmet and his friends can definitely relate to!”



RESTARTING AFTER XMAS – PRIZES TO BE WON!

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)

The Library is open!

- The school library is open at lunchtime and after school for reading, private study and homework.
- Special reading events will take place throughout the year in the library.
- You CAN NOW BORROW books as the new library software is up and running (more information to follow).
- The library rules (up in your classroom and outside the library) are in place.
- If you follow the rules, you can remain in the library.
- Pick up a Token from Student Reception at breaktime. Only 20 available.
- It is NOT open at breaktime or before school at the moment.

Modern Foreign Language

National Languages Competition:

The MFL department took part in the annual GCHQ competition at the end of November. Students in Year 9 spent their own time after school in ICT rooms and at home, cracking language-based puzzles and challenges on an online portal to gain as many points as they could for their team and school.

“The GCHQ challenge was an amazing opportunity to test and grow my problem-solving skills. I worked in a team of excellent people and everyone who took part, no matter how difficult they found it, added to the excitement of finally completing a challenge.

The community spirit that emerged from everyone having that one goal, made everyone do their best. Whilst there was indeed some competition, everyone supported and helped each other to achieve the most they could.



I would thoroughly recommend for anyone in Years 7 and 8 to take this amazing opportunity once it comes around.” - Spencer Cardwell Year 9

Congratulations to all students who entered our annual MFL Christmas Competition ‘The 12 Tasks of Christmas’. Students completed tasks demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of different languages with a Christmas theme. We look forward to announcing the winners in the New Year!

Calling all KS3 linguists

The 12 tasks of Christmas

1. Research a traditional French / Spanish / German Christmas dish!	2. Make a poster with “Merry Christmas” (or other festive messages) in French / Spanish / German!	3. Find and learn a French / Spanish / German Christmas song. Can you explain what it’s about?	4. Research an interesting French / Spanish / German Christmas tradition and write a mini paragraph about it in English!
5. Write your Christmas list in French / Spanish / German.	6. Design a French / Spanish / German Christmas card for someone.	7. Create a French / Spanish / German inspired Christmas decoration!	8. Make a list of 5 French / Spanish / German Christmas films. What are they in English?
9. Write your own French / Spanish / German Christmas poem!	10. Research some French / Spanish / German jokes, worthy of a Christmas cracker!	11. Make a list of French / Spanish / German vocabulary relating to Christmas. How many can you learn by heart?	12. Write a short paragraph in French / Spanish / German explaining how you normally celebrate Christmas.

Take part in the MFL Christmas Competition and win Achievement Points.

There will also be prizes for the students who complete the most tasks by Friday 13th December!

See Mrs Tinnion or Miss Rigby to collect your Entry Card.

You can complete the tasks in any order you like. You need to get each task signed off by one of the above teachers.

Geography – Photographic Competition

Over the course of the last few weeks students were asked to submit photographs with a Geographical theme they had taken themselves. We had nearly 100 very interesting entries from all years at the Academy and judging has been exceptionally difficult.

Each year group will have its own 1st , 2nd and 3rd which will be announced in upcoming assemblies. However, the top 3 across the whole school were:

- 1st—Year 11 - Jessica Hichens - Mam Tor Ridge*
- 2nd—Year 8 - Phoebe Maher - Seaside cliffs*
- 3rd—Year 7 - William Armel - Pyrenees mountains*



ADT

Year 8 students have been doing an 'under the sea' project and as part of this project they make clay tiles with relief imagery linked to their chosen creature.

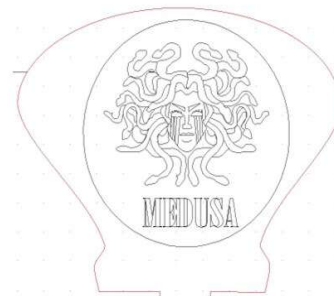
They have learnt a lot of clay building, and moulding skills.

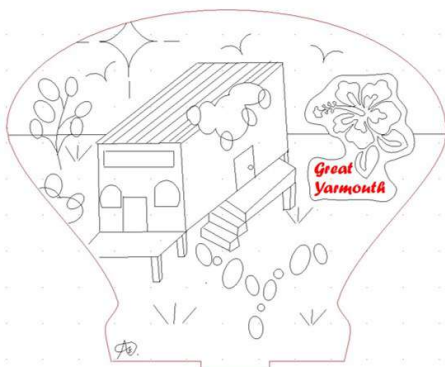
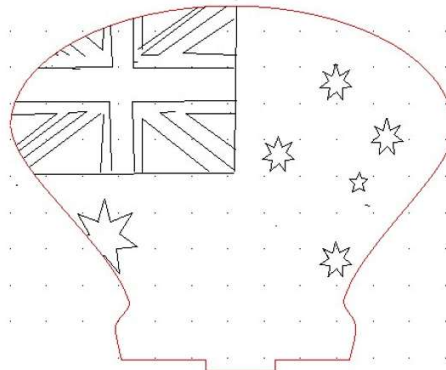
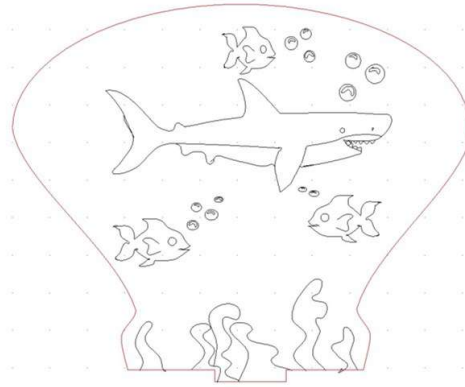
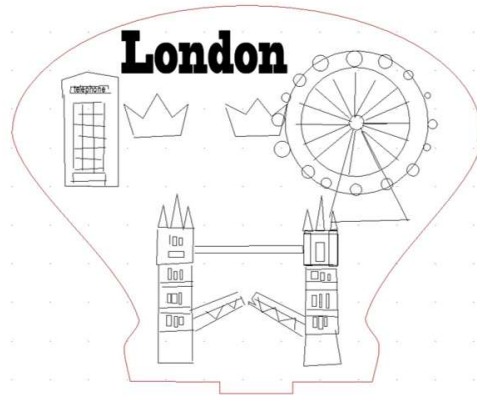
We are excited to see the final outcomes once they are painted.



Year 8 LED light design students have drawn by using Computer Aided Design. They are based on somewhere in the world.

We are excited to see the finished products.

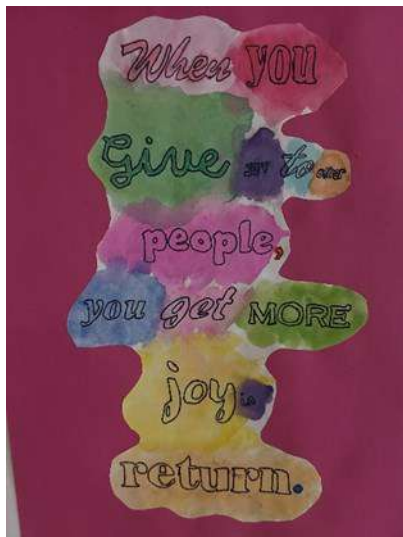




Year 8 creating LED lights in Design Technology:



Year 9 graphics students have been learning about typography and different ways to draw text. They have created positive posters using a range of media and techniques:



Food and Nutrition

Year 10 Food students have been developing their cooking skills and knowledge of food safety and nutrition.

They started by learning a high-level skill, portioning chickens. This is a skill that should gain lots of marks in their NEA work next year! Next, students moved on to the topic of nutrition and health. To demonstrate a balanced and varied meal, students made a stir fry using most areas of the 'eat well guide', particularly focusing on using a broad variety of colourful and nutritious vegetables.

Year 8 students have been covering a similar theme and have been asked to make a dish for a sporty teenager who is also a vegetarian. Students made halloumi kebabs, a healthy meal that uses an alternative protein to meat. The topic also covers energy balance, the function of protein, and dietary need and choice.



Community News

Over the last few months, in our first full term, we have been supporting both local and national charities in a number of ways. We are always extremely grateful for the generous donations and involvement from our parents and students.

Autumn/Winter Charity Calendar 2024

7th – 18th October – Sponsor a child raffle for Plan International

4th – 8th November – Poppy Selling for Remembrance Day

12th November – Odd Socks Day (Anti-Bullying Week)

15th November – Children In Need – Non-Uniform Day

18th November – 3rd December – Festive Treat Collection for Open Hands Charity supporting Vulnerable Adults and Children in Leicestershire

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Jumper Day – Donate and Swap Scheme



Plan International – Sponsor A Child

Back in October we did a sweet jar raffle in Year 7 and 8 to raise money for Plan International.

Jane Mwendu is our sponsored child. She is now 14 years old and lives in Machakos, Kenya.

She lives with her parents who are both farmers and has 5 brothers and 1 sister. Jane attends school which is a 45 minute walk away, The family's main source of water is an hour away and the nearest health facility is 2 hours away.

Year 7 and 8 raised £108 in the raffle, congratulations to Kaylin Mortimer-Dunn in Year 8 who had the winning ticket. Inside the jar was not only a variety of treats but a £10 Amazon voucher, Panini pass, golden tickets and an A3!



Children In Need – Friday 15th November 2024

On Friday 15th November all students across Years 7 to 11 came to school in non-uniform in support of Children In Need. Across the Academy we managed to raise a wonderful £869.45 and received lots of donations for our food bank. Thank you to everyone for their support.



Festive Treat Collection – Open Hands Charity

Over the past couple of weeks each tutor group has been attempting to fill a Christmas themed bag with festive treats. On Wednesday 4th December we delivered a huge amount of selection boxes, biscuits and Christmas themed treats that had been donated by our students and staff. These treats will then be arranged into hampers by Open Hands and delivered to adults and families around Leicester who are struggling, particularly at this time of year. The charity were overwhelmed by our donation and were extremely grateful for everyone's support.



WA Preloved Uniform Shop

Will you be having a clear-out over the Christmas break? Do you have any old uniform you would you be willing to donate to our pre-loved uniform shop? Our uniform shop was a huge success at the end of last term and we need some more stock to reopen again soon!

We are looking for any good quality, clean, non-damaged items that you would like to donate; please bring them into main reception at the Academy. We will soon be announcing when and where you can purchase our preloved uniform items for a bargain price. (Damaged and soiled items won't be able to be sold and will be disposed of)

Making a change – currently only 1% of clothing is recycled, lets help to make a difference!



PE UPDATE

It has been a busy few months for the students in PE and Sports – lots of clubs, fixtures and events!

Boys Football

The league fixtures continued for our boys teams as they played South Wigston and Manor.

Results v South Wigston:

Year 7 won 4-0

Year 8 lost 5-0

Year 9 lost 4-0

Year 10 won 11-0

Year 11 lost 3-1

Results v Manor:

Year 7 won 5-4

Year 8 won 7-0

Year 9 won 4-1

Year 11 won 8-3

With the Oadby and Wigston League campaigns finished, we are very proud to say that the Year 10 boys were crowned **Oadby and Wigston Champions!** They will now go on to represent the area in the County Cup – as defending Champions! Good luck lads.



The National Cup fixtures also continued for our three remaining year groups.

The Year 8 Boys' Team progressed through round 2 after a great team display meant they beat Robert Smyth 5-1. They faced local rivals South Wigston in round 3. The team put in a superb effort but unfortunately conceded a last-minute equaliser to draw 2-2, going on to lose on penalties. Unlucky lads.

The Year 9 Boys' Team faced Higham Lane in round 2 where they won an entertaining game 7-4. They then went on to face Uppingham Community College in round 3, where a brilliant team performance earned them a 4-1 win. In round 4 they faced a trip to Cedars Academy. It was a dramatic game that finished 3-3, but the boys held their nerve in the penalty shootout to win 7-6! They will now go into the last 64 of over 800 schools. Good luck lads!

The Year 10 Boys' Team continued their fine run of form when they travelled to Twycross School and came away with a 3-0 win to progress to round 3. The goals and clean sheets kept coming in round 3 as they beat Guilsborough School 4-0 to set up a tie v Robert Smyth in round 4. This game was more of a battle in wet, windy and muddy conditions, but again the lads team spirit shone through as they ran out 3-1 winners to make it into the last 64 of over 800 schools. Good luck in the next round!

Netball

The girls completed their Oadby and Wigston League fixtures with games v South Wigston and Manor.

Results v South Wigston:

Year 8 lost 14-13

Year 9 won 27-4

Year 10 won 41-5

Results v Manor:

Year 8 won 5-3

Year 9 lost 8-5

Year 11 won 19-8

After going the whole league campaign unbeaten, the Year 10 Girls' Team were crowned **Oadby and Wigston Champions** – superb work girls! They will represent the area in the County Cup later in the year.

Our Year 7 Netball team made their debut in the Oadby and Wigston Tournament in November. The girls put in some fantastic performances to win every match and be crowned **Oadby and Wigston Champions!** The future looks very bright for this talented team. They will now go on to represent the area in the County Cup. Well done girls!



Inclusive Sports

Our Inclusive teams started their competitions in November as the KS3 Indoor Athletics Team travelled to Crown Hills. The team showed great engagement and ambition to be crowned **Oadby and Wigston Champions!** Well done all! They will now go on to the County Finals later in the year!



Following this, the KS4 team had their competition at Sir Jonathan North. Once again, the team showed a superb attitude throughout and went on to be crowned **Oadby and Wigston Champions**. They will go on to the same competition as the KS3 team later in the year. Well done all!



Table Tennis

We entered a new competition for this year as our U13 Boys' and U16 Boys' Table Tennis teams competed in the Oadby and Wigston Tournament at Gartree in November. Despite coming up against some tough opposition, the boys showed brilliant resilience to never give up and played some great games. Well done to all involved.



Sports Leaders

Our Sports Leaders have had a busy term as they continue to be involved with a number of events.

In October we host the Primary Sporting Ambassadors Conference, where our Year 11 Sports Leaders helped to run the day teaching the Primary School students all about how to be a good Sports Leader. They received lots of praise and compliments from the event organisers and staff that were there. Well done all.



Meanwhile, our Year 10 Sports Leaders have been helping with various Primary competitions including Table Tennis and the Paralympic Legacy Festival. They have also been going in to our local feeder Primary School to deliver sessions for them. Again, the feedback they have received has been very positive and they continue to represent the school brilliantly! Well done everyone.

Wigston Academy on Film!



We were very proud to feature in a recent short film, alongside South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership, which promoted all the work that has been going on locally to develop Girls' Football in schools. The video, which featured our brilliant Girls' Football Activators, was shown at the #LetGirlsPlay Awards held at St George's Park. To view the film, please visit our X (formerly Twitter) PE account.

Drone Football Tournament

In December, we were lucky enough to host the first ever Drone Soccer Tournament in the UK. 20 of our students were selected to take part in the full day activity. This included being trained to fly the drones before a competitive tournament in the afternoon.

The students had a brilliant day and it was made even better as we appeared on both East Midlands Today and Radio Leicester who both covered the event.

A big thank you to Drone Soccer UK for coming in and running the event.



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

Careers Update: Wigston College and Wigston Academy

There has been lots going on to support students in careers this half term.

Year 9 work shadowing:

Nearly 60% of students were able to join their parents and carers for a day in their working environment. The students returned to school full of enthusiasm about their experiences of the world of work, developing their employability skills and exploring careers options for *their* future.

The Big Idea: The students in school didn't miss out and took part in a workshop called 'The Big Idea'. The sessions were delivered by The Talent Foundry and funded by Dell – thank you for making this possible. This involved designing a new 'product' that could help solve issues in the community. Students worked in small groups to initially design a product and then deliver their presentation to the rest of the group in order to 'win' funding from Dell. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to develop vital employability skills such as teamwork, creativity, problem solving and presentation skills.



All students will get a chance in Year 10 to take part in a weeks Work Experience to develop their skills further.

Year 10 – visit to NHS:



On Friday 1st November some students in Year 10 went to the University Hospital of Leicester to for their 'Step into a career in Medicine' event. This exciting programme gave students the opportunity to take part in some amazing simulations that medics use to train with and learn what it takes to be a doctor. The students were engaged throughout and said it was an enjoyable and valuable experience. There is a further opportunity for these students to participate in a mentoring programme to support their progress into a possible career in medicine.

Year 13 – Visit to Dunelm:



A group of Year 13 students were invited to visit the head office of Dunelm. This was a great opportunity – and thank you to Dunelm for making it possible.

Dunelm offer school leavers the opportunity to undertake apprenticeships from Level 3 through to L6 (Degree apprenticeships). The students were offered a warm welcome to the site based in Syston and were able to gain in depth information about Dunelm; what they can offer as an employer, how the company is growing and developing, a guided tour of Head office and a chance to speak to colleagues and apprentices. This was a great opportunity and a few of the students have been invited to the webinars to help support their applications to the Degree apprenticeships programme. The offer a wide range of apprenticeships including Design technology, Data analysts, IT technology, marketing and media and so much more.

If you want to consider Dunelm for apprenticeships, keep an eye out on their Early Careers website: [Early Careers - Dunelm Careers](#)



Careers Programme – What’s coming up in the next few months:

More information about the careers programme can be found on the website - [Careers Home | Wigston Multi Academy Trust](#)

Year Group	Activities	Dates
Year 13	Finalising UCAS applications – Dec deadline Supporting with Apprenticeship applications and preparing for the world of work Mock Interviews	On going January
Year 12	Work Experience Finding out about Apprenticeships, employment opportunities and the pathways on offer at the end of Year 13 Employability Workshops	2 nd – 6 th Dec Spring Term March
Year 11	Applying for Post 16 courses Mock Interviews; Preparing CVs	16 th Dec deadline January
Year 10	Exploring career opportunities Preparing for work experience	March April
Year 9	Choosing GCSE options Workshops to support decisions Exploring post 16 pathways, and beyond including apprenticeships	Spring Term January
Year 8	Career exploration – including ‘Spotlighting’ a range of careers Online platform to support careers curriculum	February/ March
Year 7	Developing employability skills Introduction to online careers platform	Jan/Feb April

Spotlight on Careers

Space

Space is one of the fastest growing sectors of the local economy and will give you a career that's out of this world! Leicester and Leicestershire is the UK's leading location for space and as our reliance on space technology and applications grows, we need a strong workforce to support it. Space information supports our modern life, including areas like medical devices, SatNav, climate monitoring, high-speed communications and technology "spin-offs" including new camera technologies.

Local companies in Leicester and Leicestershire

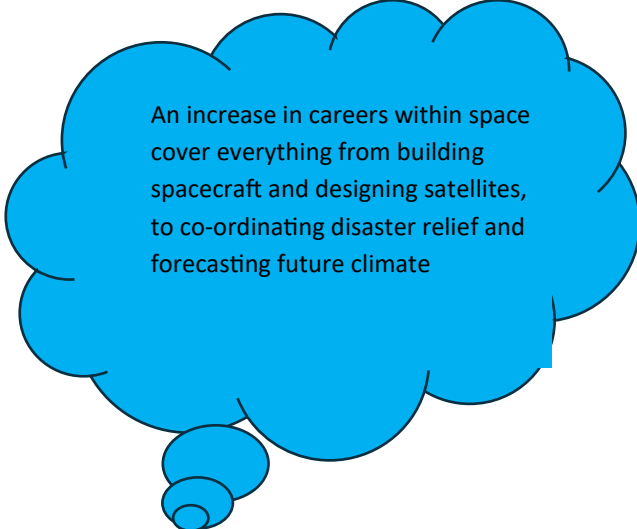
- Rolls-Royce – nuclear power for space
- Magna Parva - space hardware company
- Catapult - satellite applications
- AWE – environmental testing techniques
- Third Planet Orbital
- Dynamic Aerospace Fabrications
- SafeTTY Systems - software for space-based systems
- Airbus - aerospace services
- CGI
- Maxar
- Bluesky - aerial survey services



Space City Leicester is part of the UK's 'space spine' and home to multiple space-related UK organisations such as Rolls-Royce, the UK Space Agency and the National Centre for Earth Observation

What Could you earn from this industry?

Systems Engineer	£25K-£55K
Space Lawyer	£22K-£50K
Communications Engineer	£22K-£50K
Data Scientist	£25K-£55K
Planetary Scientist	£24K-£50K
Electronics Technician	£21K-£45K
Business Development Lead	£22K-£50K
Disaster Response Coordinator	£25K-£45K



An increase in careers within space cover everything from building spacecraft and designing satellites, to co-ordinating disaster relief and forecasting future climate

Please see further information for a deeper dive into this industry [LLEP WORLD OF WORK LEICESTERSHIRE](#)

Local opportunities currently available:

Embedded Software Engineer	Junior Aerospace Engineer
UI/UX Designer	Mechanisms Engineer
Aerodynamics Engineer	Project Manager (Space)
Cleanroom Technician	Cyber Security Analyst

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

PERFORMING ARTS

As we move into this festive season in our Performing Arts Department, we have had an incredibly busy and fulfilling term. Our WAT live production in October was immensely successful, which involved more than 90 students showcasing their skills in music, dance, and drama. The level of talent and enthusiasm on display was truly inspiring! We also had the pleasure of performing for our feeder primary schools, an event that we have been doing for many years. It serves as a wonderful opportunity for connection among our students and those from the younger schools, fostering a shared love for the arts.

As we look ahead, our preparations for Winter Wonderland on the 18th and 19th of December are in full swing. Our students have been working extremely hard.

I'm thrilled to share that auditions for our 2024 production, "We Will Rock You," have concluded successfully. We cannot wait to dive into rehearsals for what promises to be an exhilarating show. To give you a taste of what's to come, we will provide a sneak preview during Winter Wonderland. Tickets for this and all our upcoming shows are available on the Academy/College websites—be sure to secure your seats!

Our department remains very active, with many enrichment activities taking place. Recently, we hosted a Musical Theatre day for Year 7 to 10 students that was hugely successful, with performances from the students being featured in our Winter Wonderland show.

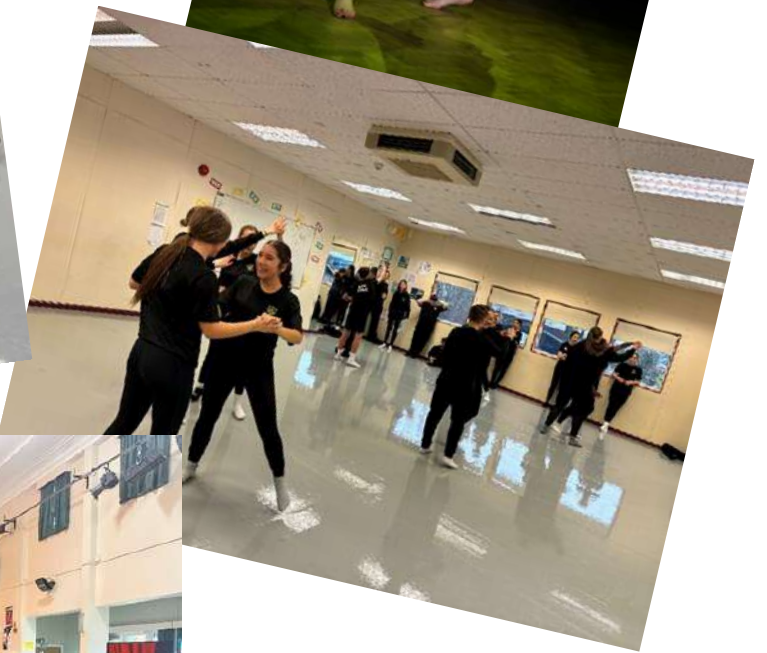
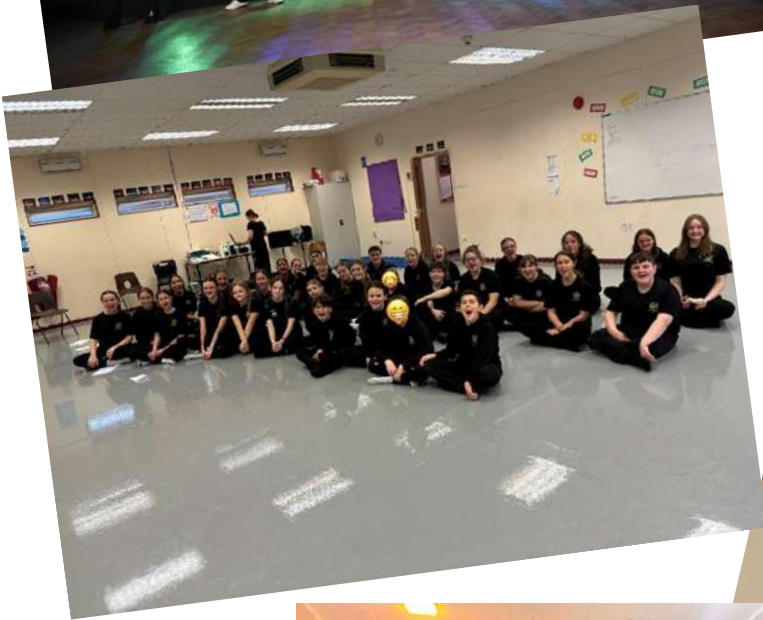
Additionally, current Year 10 and 11 students engaged in a Blood Brothers workshop conducted by professionals who have extensive experience in the production. This initiative not only aligns with their GCSE curriculum but also enriches their understanding and appreciation of drama. We also conducted a workshop for our Year 9 drama students, further nurturing our talented individuals.

It is exciting to witness the enthusiasm and dedication from students across all year groups as they engage with the many opportunities we provide. None of this would be possible without the support from colleagues, parents and carers and our community, for which we are very grateful.

I am delighted to share some exciting news about our ongoing support for LOROS, an incredible charity that makes a remarkable difference in our community. To date, with the generous support of our audiences and co-funding with our PE department, we have raised an impressive £600 towards our goal of £1000. These funds will play an essential role in bringing to life an elephant sculpture that our students and staff will paint alongside our talented Art Department. This creative endeavour fosters a sense of collaboration and community spirit. Once completed, the stunning elephant will embark on a "stomp adventure" throughout the community, bringing joy and engaging countless individuals along the way. Ultimately, this beautiful piece of art will find its permanent home at the Trust.

Please see the poster detailing our upcoming shows and come and support our talented students as they share their hard work and creativity with us all.

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**
Local Care for Leukemia, Lymphomas & Myeloma

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

THE 1984 ROCKY HORROR SCHOOL EDITION IS APPROVED THROUGH SCHOOLS APPROVED WITH AN OF
EDUCATIONAL PUBLICATIONS PERMISSION AND MANAGED BY THE ROCKY HORROR SCHOOL EDITION TEAM
WWW.ROCKYHORROR.COM

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
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

SUMMER FIESTA
25/06/2025 - 26/06/2025

WAT PRODUCTIONS

WA'S GOT TALENT

KS3

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
WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG | (PRODUCTION TICKETS)

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)

Sixth Form Update

Year 13 PPEs/Parent's Evening

Thank you for those of you that attended the recent Parent's Evening for your son or daughter. There were so many valuable conversations that took place that night, making sure everyone had a clear picture of the current state of play in terms of where your son or daughter is currently with regards to their studies. One of the main talking points of the evening is how students had performed in the recent set of PPEs and what it is they need to do between now and the live examination series in the summer to ensure they achieve the grades that they deserve. Copies of the most recent reports have been shared with you via WAT App. There will be further testing of Year 13 students after Christmas, but as we know revision should be a constant throughout this year. We look forward to sharing progress with you following these. We would like to thank all parents and carers for all the support they provide. As always, if you ever have any questions or queries about how your child is doing, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Wigston College Culture Day 2024

Wednesday 27th November saw us hold our second ever annual Culture Day here at the College. Our Culture and Diversity Committee had been working hard on planning and organising this event. They had done a tremendous job in finding, communicating with and booking some excellent keynote speakers for the event. We were very privileged to welcome Herdle White, a legend of BBC Radio Leicester with 55 years of broadcasting history, and I believe the record for the longest broadcasting career for any African-Caribbean radio presenter. He regaled the Sixth Form with his stories of moving to Leicester as part of the Windrush generation and told a jaw dropping story of when he got to interview Bob Marley and the Wailers only for the interview tape to end up being thrown away! We also welcomed local business woman and Head of European Marketing for Honeywell Fire Mrs Dina Mistry who gave an insight into her experiences of being a woman of colour in a white, male dominated world. Finally we welcomed Ty'rone Haughton, a poet who has worked with the Stephen Lawrence Foundation, the Trussell Trust and Birmingham Common Wealth Games. Ty'rone was a care leaver and sits on the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Care Panels. He shared his experience of education growing up and was good enough to share some of his amazing work with our students. Details of his book can be found at the end of this section. Along with all of this our students were invited to wear their cultural dress as well as bring in food from their culture and heritage (favourite bit of the staff!). This was a thoroughly enriching morning and a fabulous atmosphere as we recognised, educated and celebrated the richness and diversity the College has to offer. We must mention Naomi Thompson and Serene Atkins as the Heads of the Culture and Diversity Committee as they and their team did an incredible job of organising the event – many of our guests said that they had communicated and emailed in a clearer and more professional way than many national organisations that they work with. Fantastic work both. Please see our social sites for more coverage of the day. We are looking forward to next year's event already.



Year 13 students applying to universities for 2025

It is the time of year when Year 13 students are busily working on finalising their applications to university. This is the culmination of a lot of information, advice and guidance which students received throughout Year 12 and on entering Year 13. A significant number of students have already submitted their applications and are currently receiving offers of places and being invited to interviews. Other students are now adding the finishing touches to their UCAS application forms as they have been urged to make sure that they complete the process and submit before the end of term. All applications are checked and references and predicted grades added by the Sixth Form Team before being sent off. Further support is available next term as students make their final choice of course from the offers they receive and also make student finance applications in early spring.

Year 11 Wigston College Taster Lessons

Year 11 students at Wigston Academy are currently completing their applications for their next phase of education. To support them in their decisions, students predicted to meet the entry criteria for Wigston College were invited to attend a taster morning on Wednesday 4th December. Students were given the opportunity to try up to five different courses. Feedback has been positive and appreciative, the only negative for them is that they are now considering more A levels and some who were not considering the College now are! Aspirations have been raised and students at Wigston Academy have had the opportunity to see what they could achieve and that they can achieve it with us at Wigston College.

My BBC Young Reporter Day—by Georgia Satchwell, Year 13

I was lucky enough to have the chance to attend one of the BBC Young Reporter days at De Montfort University on Wednesday the 20th of November. It was such an amazing day which included TV and radio journalism workshops, a careers panel made up of people in the media industry, and an interview with Steel the Gladiator (aka Zack George). Within the TV journalism workshop, I was able to experience what it was like to be a part of a live news programme – with the Universities ‘set-up’ filming room. This had a green screen, special broadcast cameras, teleprompters and a production control room – it was fantastic to see how they worked and have a go myself.

In the radio journalism workshop, we got into teams and produced a clip of an interview, set out as a podcast. This was great as it gave us the chance to put together a script, use the technical equipment and then listen to what we created.

Additional to this, just meeting new people who had the same passion as me and also those who work in the field I’d love to go into was such an enjoyable and valuable networking experience and to find out new things, especially through the careers panel.

Finally, it was great to meet Steel and have the chance to create and ask him questions about his career and journey into getting where he is today. All of this experience has made me more experienced and excited to hopefully go into a career in the media industry.

The good news is on the back of this I have made it to the next round with my application for Journalist Level 5 Apprenticeship with Bristol at the BBC...so watch this space!



Law Experience Day—Alice Bettinson, Year 13 and Student President

Alice took it upon herself to find opportunities and pathways into her chosen career path of Law. Alice found the Brown Jacobson Fair Work Experience for Young Professionals and submitted her application to be part of the day. She soon found out that she had been accepted and spent the day getting an invaluable insight into the legal industry and the day to day working lives of solicitors and barristers. Alice was also lucky enough to experience the insight and wisdom of Baroness Lady Hale during the day. Alice was so successful and impressed the firm so much that she won an in person experience and lunch with Brown Jacobson's Head of Social; Mobility and Resources. Well done Alice what a fantastic effort and an experience that is going to stand you in great stead ahead of what we hope to be a very successful career in law.

Karate World Championships—Cyra Webb, Year 12

Finally to complete our round up of our amazing students and their news we have Cyra Webb who, along with her mum, have just returned from the Karate World Championships in Japan. This has been a tournament and event that has been a long time coming as it was disrupted by the pandemic so Cyra and her mum Bianca were thrilled to finally make it to Japan for the competition. We are so proud of Cyra and her dedication to the sport and are pleased to say that she made it to the last 32 in the world! Bianca was crowned world champion and brought home a gold medal. Some of you may have seen or heard footage and interviews with this not to be messed with pair on East Midlands today and Radio Leicester. Well done to you both, what an incredible achievement.

