



PARENT BULLETIN

Welcome to the Academy Bulletin—April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to share some highlights from this term, showcasing the fantastic achievements and experiences our students have had.

Our **Year 7** students recently returned from a successful trip to Normandy, France, where they spent a week fully immersing themselves in the language and culture. It was an enriching experience that allowed them to put their learning into practice and create lasting memories. I'm sure they all came back with stories to tell and new skills in the French language!

Our **Year 10** students had a very successful Parents' Evening, with many insightful conversations about their progress, followed by them receiving their Target GCSE grades. Additionally, they recently completed a week of work experience, where they gained valuable real-world insights and learned important lessons that will benefit them in the future. These experiences are so important for their personal and professional development.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with all members of the School Council from **Years 7-10**, which was incredibly enjoyable. We had lots of excellent discussions, and there were many great ideas about how we can move the school forward together. It's fantastic to see our students taking such an active role in shaping our school community.

A huge highlight this term was the incredible Trust Show of ***We Will Rock You***, where students from **all year groups** came together to perform. It was, without a doubt the best show I have seen since joining Wigston Academy—and the bar was already very high! The talent, energy, and commitment displayed by everyone involved was truly outstanding.

Our **Year 11** students have now completed their final set of PPEs (Pre-Public Exams) and their predicted grades have been issued. Exams are fast approaching and we wish them the very best of luck as they prepare for this important next step in their academic journey.

We were also delighted to receive fantastic feedback from our recent Challenge Partners report following their visit to Wigston Academy. The report highlighted the dedication of our staff, the positive learning environment, and the strong sense of community that exists within our school. In particular, the report praised the high-quality teaching and learning strategies that continue to drive student success, as well as the strong leadership and commitment to student well-being. It also noted that *“students understand and embrace Wigston values, citing how they help them stay focused and encourage them to reach their full potential.”* Additionally, the report recognised that *“the curriculum is broad, ambitious, and well-structured to meet diverse pupil needs, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with additional needs.”* Another key highlight was that *“students expressed strong relationships with teachers, which encourages a culture of mutual respect, safety, and belonging.”*

This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our entire school community.

Finally, as we approach the end of term, I want to wish all our students and their families a restful, enjoyable, and safe Easter break. It's been a fantastic term and I hope everyone returns recharged and ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr Chris Conlon
Headteacher Wigston Academy

DIARY DATES

SPRING TERM 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

Trust Update: Following the departure of Mr Mark Mitchley in January, the Trust board have appointed Mr Mike Wilson as interim CEO and Mrs Christine Stansfield as interim Deputy CEO. Mrs Pollon and Mr Conlon will continue to lead our two schools as Headteachers.

Why not borrow a book from our library?

Reading is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children and listening to them read is another gift to ourselves. Finding quality time with our children can be increasingly challenging, especially as they grow and become more independent. However, dedicating this time not only strengthens our relationship but also fosters their growth and education, preparing them to face the outside world confidently.

Can your child make reading a priority for 15 minutes a day?

It doesn't matter, to begin with, the type of book they read so long as they are reading. Once they have picked up the habit of reading, then you can start to look at challenging them to read books in their own age group bracket. Reading can literally change your child's life!

Set the task for your child to go to our school library where they can borrow a book from a huge selection!

Use this link to see the [benefits of reading!](#)

YEAR 7

The vast majority of Year 7 students are enjoying life at Wigston Academy. The students have settled into our school well and are flourishing. They have amassed the most achievement points in the Academy which is a marvellous achievement. The reports from teaching staff is really positive showing their commitment to their learning. Students have really taken to our Ethos and Values and are making us and themselves proud. They are getting rewarded for their efforts, with weekly tutees of the week, postcards, certificates and phone calls home. Before we break up for Easter there will be a bumper rewards assembly with over 40 prizes and more certificates on offer.

The Year 7 French trip to Normandy was a real success with students exchanging stories on their return. Thank you, Madame Dubois and the staff involved, for taking them.

Well, done Year 7, Miss Tabor-Brown and I are really proud of you.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their support during this academic year, it is appreciated.

As ever, if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0116 2881228 or email me directly: dhodgkinson@wigstonmat.org

Mr Hodgkinson - Head of Year 7

Spring is finally here and it's really nice to have longer, brighter days. During a recent assembly we spoke to students about supporting their own wellbeing. Mr Carton spoke about fun ways to be active and taking part in activities that we enjoy. One of our students regularly wakes up at 6.00am to enable her to have time to go swimming before school, what a great way to start the day!

It was lovely to see some of our Year 8 take part in our production of **We Will Rock You**. We were very proud of them.

A number of our students took part in the School Space Competition and were congratulated on their outstanding work, well done.

Our top 5 highest achievement point students had fun making pancakes as a reward and we look forward to continue to celebrate academic success in the year group.

Keep up the great effort in lessons and around school!

Mrs Bentley – Head of Year 8

YEAR 8

YEAR 9

We have been really excited to speak to students about the options that they have chosen ready for Year 10. It is really good to see so many students excited and keen about their futures. As I look back on the progress we have made as a year group, I feel really proud of how far we have come. Students have grown into mature and ambitious young people and I hope to continue to see them develop into the best version of themselves.

Please encourage students to be punctual to their lessons, it's a key part of making progress academically and reaching targets. A huge well done to those that have been on time to school and their lessons and are working hard to achieve their best. Your efforts do not go unnoticed.

Ms Bhogal – Head of Year 9

Year 10 have been very busy. The majority of the year group are working well in lessons, it is a pleasure seeing them engage in their learning. So far this year, they have been given target grades and their first set of predictive grades were presented on 26th March. The second round of predictive grades will be provided in June; we are hoping the majority will see improvements.

Students will make academic progress if they have good attendance, punctuality, engagement in lessons and revise regularly at home, we recommend 20 mins at a time. The year group are working hard to ensure they meet the submission deadline for NEA coursework, it is fast approaching. Please be assured we will do everything we can to support all students with this deadline; this will include providing support sessions after school on the last day of term and sessions during the Easter holiday.

I am really pleased so many students have signed up to go on the Blood Brother theatre trip, not only will this be a lovely experience, it will be of great benefit in the actual English Literature and Drama GCSE exams. This will be such a positive start to Year 11 and I know many staff have volunteered to support on this trip! A reminder, all students need their own copy of Blood Brothers, they are expected to bring it to their English lessons.

Once again, our sports teams have done incredibly well, we are so proud of the efforts from all students involved. Thank you to the coaches involved too, I know Year 10s really appreciate the hard work and dedication.

Year 10 well done for your hard work this term. Have a nice relaxing break and I look forward to seeing you next term. Well done to all students who managed to get a work placement, this is such a valuable experience. Remember, every day matters, every lesson counts. You should be aiming for 95% + attendance.

It was a pleasure seeing so many parents and carers at the recent parents evening, thank you for your continued support.

Miss Bramley - Head of Year 10

After another very busy half term, we have again been very impressed by the students' hard work and commitment. This half term they have been given their last set of predicted grades and their PPE results, so they know where they are and what still needs to be done.

The battle of the bands has been lots of fun and the students are enjoying the competition and the chance of being recognised for their hard work. continued/ ...



This half term we have introduced a couple of new awards: **Effort10 Award** for students that are consistently working hard in school and revising well at home and the **Underdog Award (Wonder dog)** for those students who have moved from the back of the crowd to the front. The two winners so far are Zain Unwin and Deean Padhiar.

The prom is fast approaching and the full amount should be paid by the 20th of April. We will send out further information to those that are going closer to the night.

If your child has not signed up for Easter revision, please contact the Year 11 team and we will get you booked in. It is really important at this stage to stay in a good routine, for example going to bed and getting up at a reasonable time and using their time effectively by keeping up with revision.

We appreciate that this is a very stressful time for you and your child, please contact us if you have any worries or questions.

Have a lovely Easter.

Mrs Chapman and Mrs Brennan – Head of Year 11 and Assistant Head of Year 11

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	Eliza Archer	Kayla-Paige Bale	Haidee Addison	Fran Chapman-Jones
Ava Dudson	Isabelle Derry	William Beart	Joseph Barker	Hope Cooper
Daisy Grace	Zsofia Dickson	Isobel Bromley-Spurr	Nyasha Chikuni	Scarlet Dalton
Alexa Johnson	Sanvika Gurram	Gaia Byrne	Julia Cichon	Eleanor Erswell
Jude Macken	Zachary Jewell	Victorious Chulu	Amelia Dubbins	Ellie Goddard
Georgia McLeod	Callum Noble	Jess Cooper	Alex Hindocha	Shola Idowu
Cassia Overton-Pears	Veer Purshottam	Freya Dell	Niamh Howes	Amy Jones
Mason Percival	Olly Robinson	Izzy Fisher	Davina Joy King Daniels Bala	Larry Keane
Bernard Poultney	Regan Tuck	Steven Gao	Lillia O'Brien	Ayaan Mughal
Lola Robertson	Lily Wells	Seth Gilbert	Mehmet Vural	Millie Toor

Year 7 French Trip

41 keen and excited Year 7s left Wigston College in the early hours of Sunday 16th March. After a safe journey by coach and ferry, we arrived in Normandy in time to explore the accommodation, eat dinner and have a tour of the grounds. All pupils commented on how beautiful the little chateau nestled in the quiet countryside was. Very picturesque indeed!

The rest of the week followed with non-stop activities led by French animateurs with all instructions being given in French. Everyone picked up the language and it was great to see the children having a go at speaking French with the animateurs and even with each other.

All took part in the mud run (a clear favourite), canoeing, bread-making, team building, fencing, end of trip disco, as well as trips out to Dinan market, St Malo and Mont St Michel and a stop at a supermarket.

Meal times were an opportunity to try out typical French dishes and ask for extra in French!

We had compliments on the behaviour of our students on the ferry and the supermarket as we headed home to waiting parents on Friday. A very busy, tiring but rewarding week for all!

"The weather was good and the journey to get there was amazing. It does take long but it's worth it. My dorm room was amazing. You will really love the trip." Issac

"The France trip is an opportunity of a lifetime. I highly recommend it if you like trying different things and stepping out of your comfort zone. You do activities from bread-making and fencing to canoeing and the 'mud run.' I'm so glad I went. The animateurs and staff were kind and always on hand to help. If you want to learn a language the staff only speak French so you have the best experience learning. I made so many new friends and got to see other sides of people that I hadn't seen before." Lois

"The trip to Château de la Baudonnière was amazing. The activities were good and so was the food. There were croissants every breakfast and we got to do the muddy assault course, canoeing and day trips too." Toby

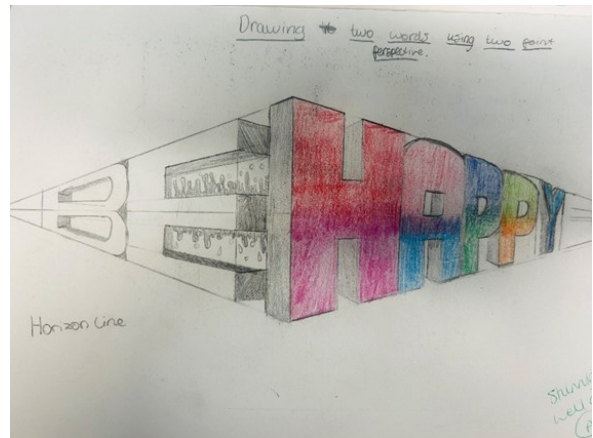
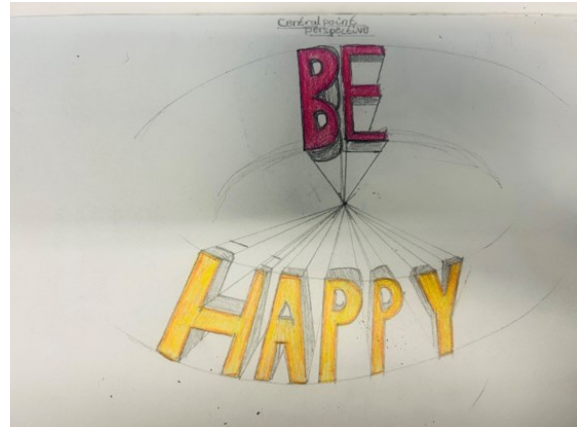
"The French trip was amazing. If I could do two activities again it would be the muddy assault course and canoeing. I would definitely go again. The food was great, especially the snails!" Jack

"The French Trip was very fun and exciting. I understand the reason why they said not to bring your phone as the day is incredibly busy! Surprisingly, it was very sunny there as well. On the day trips to the market and others, there was so much to buy and so many things to choose from. The animateurs were very nice and I managed to understand what they were saying after a couple of days." Sophie

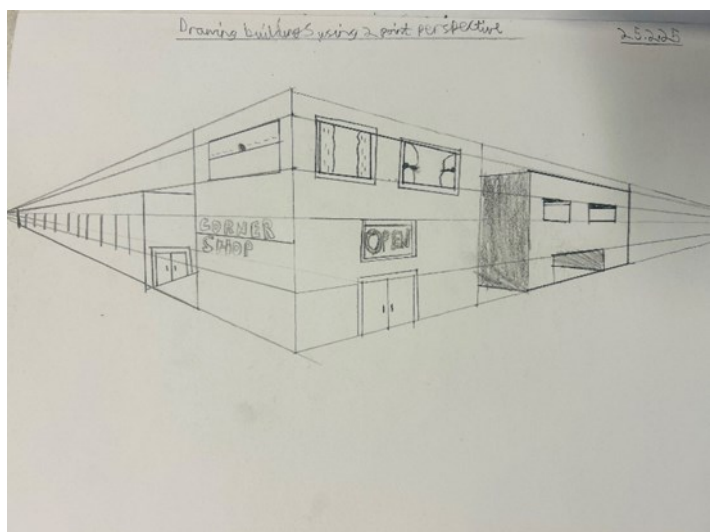
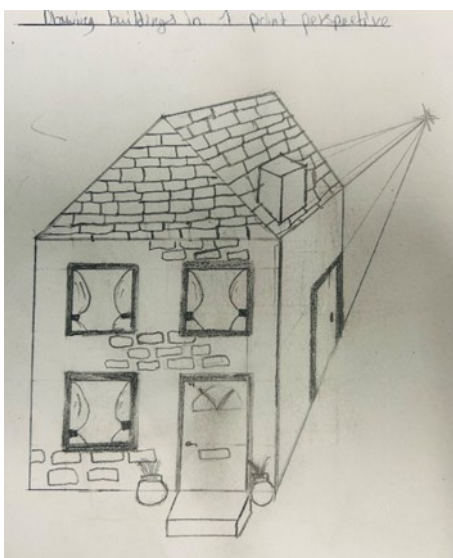


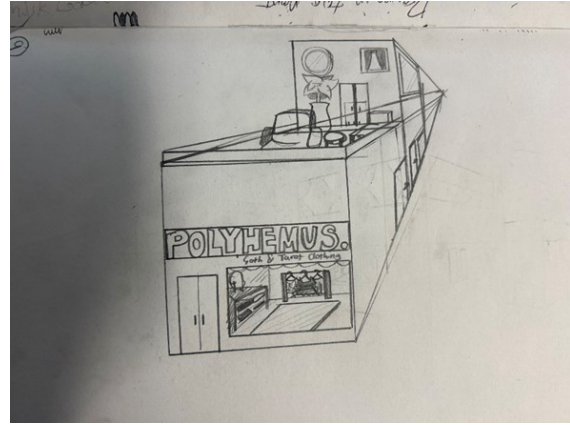
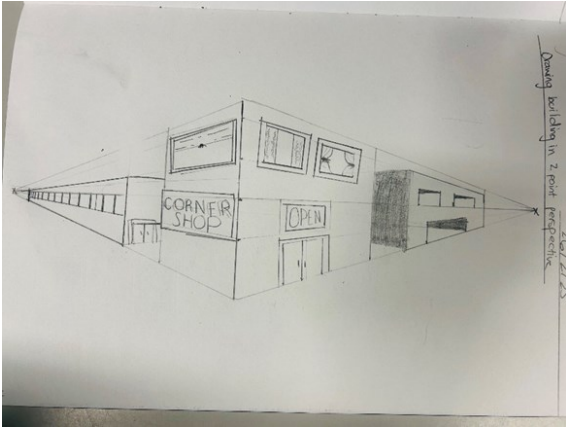
ADT

Year 7 have been learning about different types of perspective and have been practising these methods by drawing text and used blending of pencil crayons to add colour.



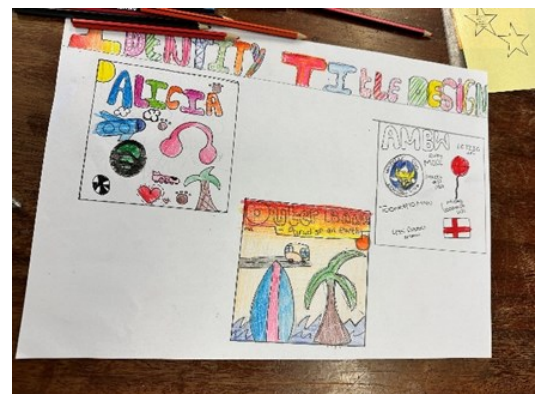
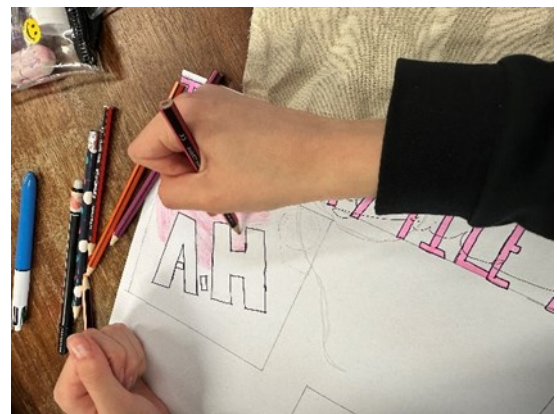
Year 7 Graphics have been learning how to draw buildings using one point and two point perspective.





Year 8 have been working on their identity project where we have been looking at us as individuals and things we like and dislike. Students will be creating a fabric tile to showcase their identity.

We have also been starting to create some samples of tie dye to use later in our project.

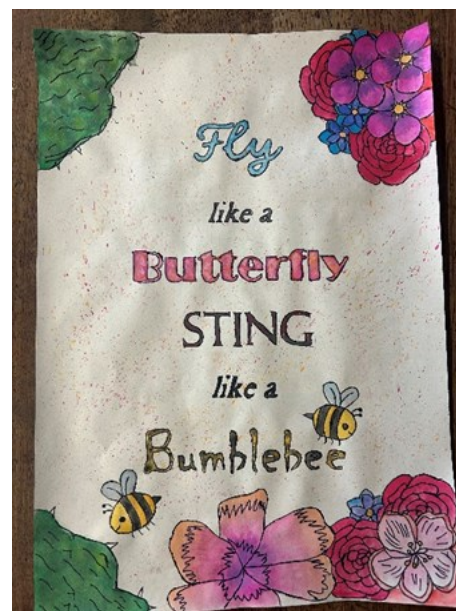
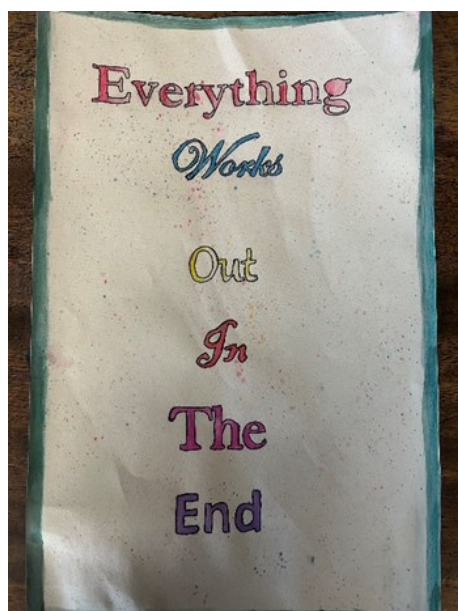
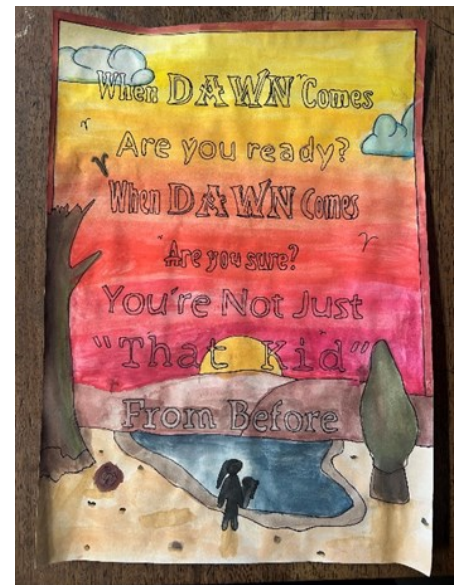
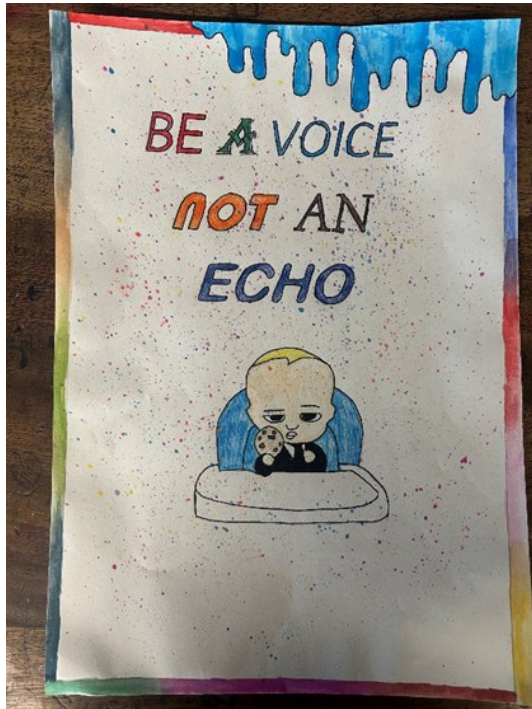




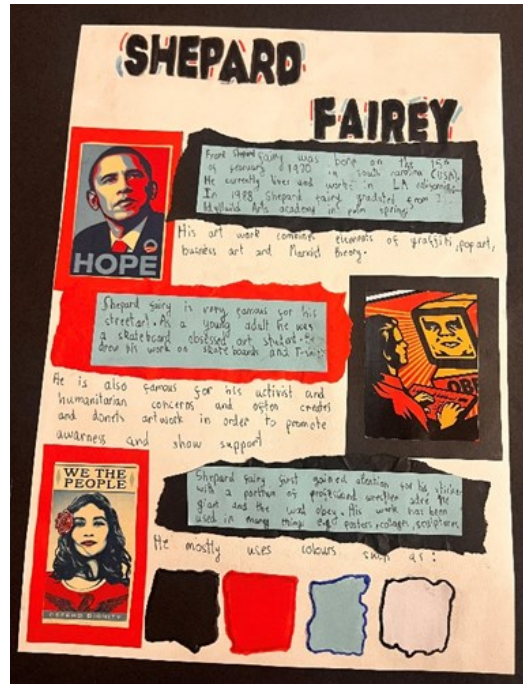
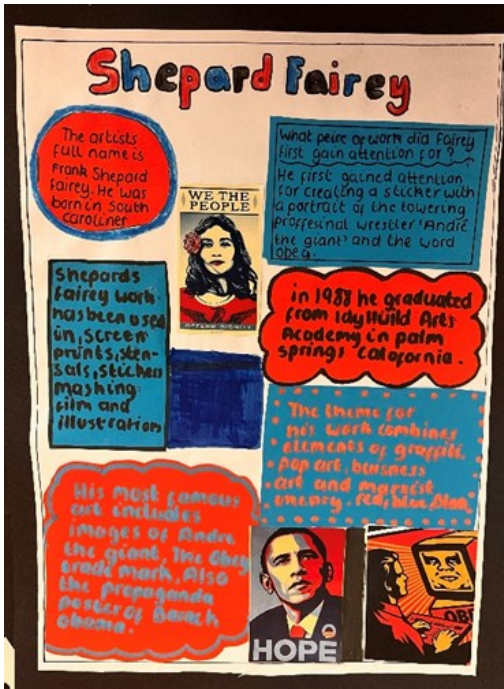
Year 8 have been focusing on an Under the Sea project. They have been working hard on designing and making their clay tiles.



Year 9 have continued creating positivity posters using a range of typography and colouring techniques.



Year 9 have been learning about Shepard Fairey and monochromatic painting.



The ADT Department would like to thank Milton-Bevingtons in Wigston for their incredible donation of fabric to our textiles department.

PE UPDATE

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

GALs Day

A group of our Year 8 students attended the Girl's Active Lifestyles Day at Huncote Leisure Centre this term. It was a fantastic opportunity and experience for the students to participate in a wide range of physical activities and learn more about the importance of being active. They also got to hear an inspirational speech from Great British Olympic gymnast Becky Downie. Well done to all our students!



Netball

Our netball teams rounded off their seasons with the South Leicestershire Tournaments held at Leicester Grammar. All the teams performed well and showed great determination and teamwork. Noticeable finishes included the Year 9s who finished 4th and the Year 10s who finish off another successful season by finishing 3rd.

A big well done to all the students involved in netball this year. We look forward to going again next September.

Girls' Football

Our girls' football teams finished their Oadby and Wigston campaigns with matches at home against Manor.

The Year 7 team made it 4 wins from 4 with a 6-3 to be crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions. This is a brilliant achievement in their first year with us. This meant they went on to represent the area in the County Cup. In the quarter final they travelled to Bosworth Academy, where a fine team display earned them a 5-2 win. In the semi finals they faced a strong Cedars Academy side and despite a battling performance, where they never gave up, the girls unfortunately lost. It has been a fantastic debut season for the girls and we can't wait for next year!

The Year 8/9 team showed amazing resilience to battle back and earn a 2-2 draw with Manor. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough to qualify for the County Cup as they finished runners-up in the Oadby and Wigston League. Great effort girls!

The Year 10/11 team were also crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions – another brilliant achievement. In their first game in the County Cup they faced a trip to De Lisle in the quarter final. The girls showed amazing team spirit and resilience to come back from 2-0 down to draw the game and force the tie to be decided on penalties. The girls scored all 4, whilst the opposition missed 2 to help us win the match. They face another away trip against Martin High School in the semi-final. Good luck girls!

Boys' Football

The Year 10 boys' football team kicked off the defence of their County Cup title with a tricky away tie v last year's final opponents English Martyrs. They produced one of their finest performances to overcome a strong opposition and run out comfortable 4-1 winners. This set up a semi-final tie v Redmoor. The boys showed a real determination and played some really good football to earn a 1-0 win and book their place in the final. In the final at Seagrave, the boys found themselves 2-0 down v Loughborough Grammar School. However, they, once again, showed amazing team spirit, resilience and belief to come back and found the equaliser with the last kick of the match to spark jubilant celebrations. This took the game to the lottery of penalties. Unlike last year, it was one step too far for the boys who lost 3-2 on penalties.

We are extremely proud of the boys and their achievements this year. Once again being crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions and being County Cup runners up is a great season. Well done lads.



Futsal

The annual Oadby and Wigston Futsal Tournaments for our girls teams took place this term and it was a clean sweep for Wigston Academy as our Year 7, Year 8 & 9 and Year 10 & 11 teams were all crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions. What a brilliant achievement – well done girls!



Football Activators Conference

A group of Year 7 footballers attended the #LetGirlsPlay Football Activators Conference held at Cedars Academy. It was a fantastic day for the girls who were learning how to become Football Activators and inspire and lead the next generation of female footballers.

The day included hearing some inspirational talks from females in sport, working with some Leicester City Womens U21 players, officiating courses and practical courses. We look forward to seeing how the girls put all of it into action!



Sports Leaders

Our amazing Year 10 Sports Leaders continue to inspire the next generation as they helped at various Primary School Competitions including basketball and dodgeball. They are always so professional and hardworking and receive so much positive feedback. They really are a credit to the school. Well done all.

In lessons ...

There has also been plenty going on within the curriculum including some lucky students taking part in a **Karate** session lead by Team Rankine Karate. Our Year 11 GCSE PE students took part in a mock **Practical Moderation**. They all performed brilliantly and it was great practice for the real thing in May! We also celebrated **National Careers Week** by talking to all the students about the wide variety of transferable skills they learn in PE and how these can be used in their future careers. We also recognised **World Book Day** by sharing PE staff's favourite books including Stig of the Dump, Jamie Vardy's Autobiography and Where The Wild Things Are!



Date for your Diary

Our annual Sports Awards Evening will be held on Thursday 3rd of July. This, once again, promises to be an amazing evening where we recognise and celebrate all things extra-curricular. More information will follow but get that date in your diaries!

PE Twitter – Up-to-date Information

To keep up to date with information from the PE department, please follow our Twitter account: @WigstonAcadPE

Careers Update – April 2025

Planning for the future:

The local Careers Hub is working with schools and colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire to understand your experience of your young person's careers education programme. This survey asks some questions about you, your careers knowledge, and experiences.

Please fill in this short survey. Help us to ensure you have access to the required information at the best time to support your young person to make their next best step. Thank you.

Can You Help?

Wigston Academy - [Survey](#)

Wigston College - [Survey](#)

Apprenticeship Fair – 20th March

Year 11 students were given the valuable opportunity to participate in the Apprenticeship Careers fair at City Hall, Leicester. Students were given a presentation by a representative from ASK, highlighting the different levels of career opportunities and how different qualifications can be achieved through this pathway. In addition, students were given the chance of an interview with 2 or 3 different providers. Students found it a really valuable experience and have gained an insight into the different fields available for apprenticeship pathways in the local area as well as how to apply for different apprenticeships.



cavendish
nuclear

Cavendish Nuclear

Cavendish Nuclear delivered an assembly to Year 9 students showing the wide range of different projects they undertake. Apprentices, including past students, shared their

experiences, including their working week, their training and their overall experiences. There was also a task that continued into PSHCE that was supported by Cavendish nuclear where students were able to consider the different roles involved within affectively completing a realistic scenario, with the winning tutor groups being awarded a prize!

We are really excited to continue with the collaborative work with Cavendish Nuclear. They delivered an in-school programme for Year 10 students (who weren't able to secure a work experience placement) developing their employability skills and looking to solve a real life problem.

Look out for the next bulletin to find out about the success of the week.

Year 10 - Work Experience 31st March

After months of planning and preparation for work experience, nearly 91% of students took part in one week's work experience.

This was a great opportunity to develop employability and transferable skills. Thank you for all your support, as parents and carers, to help secure placements. And a huge thank you to all of the local employers who have offered to support our young people and help them make decisions about their future.



Help bring our school allotment to life!



We are thrilled to share that our school allotment has been freshly cleared and is ready to bloom! Now we need your help to turn it into a thriving space for our children to learn, grow and enjoy nature.

Whether you have a green thumb or have never planted a seed before, we welcome everyone to get involved. We have the tools and space – all we need is your enthusiasm! From planting and weeding to watering and harvesting, there's a role for everyone. Even if you can't help physically, donations of seeds, plants or gardening supplies would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteering in the allotment is a wonderful opportunity to spend time outdoors, meet other families and inspire the next generation to appreciate gardening and sustainability. For safeguarding purposes, all volunteers will need to complete an enhanced DBS check, but we can assist with this process.

If you would like to lend a hand or contribute in any way, please get in touch with the school. Let's work together to create a beautiful, bountiful space for our school community!

Thank you for your support – let's get growing!

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts have had a busy and successful year to date. We have performed three big productions so far this academic year. Our adventurous and hugely successful We Will Rock You has seen more than 60 students involved onstage, backstage and in the orchestra, and has been performed to in excess of 850 people. This has been the most demanding show in so many aspects and we are absolutely in awe of our talented students that rose to the challenge with perfection. We have been inundated with incredible feedback from staff, students and our lovely WAT Productions community that come and support us show on show.

We are about to commence rehearsals for our final production of the year. Summer Fiesta is a celebration of our outgoing students, it will be a culmination of Musical Theatre, Music and Dance, and we look forward to their performances with anticipation. We have students this year that have supported our choreography team and we are continually grateful to them. We are sad to lose such a strong cohort but thank them for all their endless support, dedication and pure talent, and we wish them well for their future careers. We are excited to see their next steps. We are thrilled with the number of new students that we have involved in Performing Arts and I am sure this will lead to many more successful and amazing opportunities for our budding performers.

Alongside this, we are hosting a talent show for KS3 students towards the end of the academic year. This is an opportunity for our younger students to showcase their own talents. We hope to have many acts and are really looking forward to the opportunity to support them and give them this experience. We will be hosting an evening performance where parents are welcome to come and support. This is our third year for WAT's Got Talent and we are very excited for this event which is supported by Heads of Year.



Summer Fiesta will be performed on 25th and 26th June. Tickets are available for this production 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 the amazing students involved in our final production of the academic year. We would like to thank you for your continued support of Performing Arts and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

I would personally like to thank our amazing Performing Arts team that have a significant input in our productions, without them these shows would not be possible and our students would miss out on wonderful opportunities. A huge thanks to Mr Roberts, Mrs Smith, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Hazarika.

Miss Watkiss - Head of Performing Arts



A close-up photograph of pink cherry blossoms with yellow stamens, set against a soft, blurred background of more blossoms and a warm, golden light.

Hayfever Season

As we are now in the season for allergies like hayfever, please medicate your child before school if needed. You can send medication into school if they need it during the day too. It will be kept securely in the medical room for them to access when needed.

Blue consent forms are available from main reception or the medical room.

Thank you

A graphic design featuring a gradient background from light purple at the top to light blue at the bottom. Scattered across the background are several realistic water droplets of various sizes, some with highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

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.