



# PARENT BULLETIN

## Welcome to the Academy Bulletin – December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements across our school community and to thank you for your ongoing support.

This term, our **KS3 students** received their first *Commitment to Learning* scores, which were celebrated in assembly and have since formed the foundation of conversations about progress and personal development. Assemblies have been lively and full of energy, with our *Times Tables Rock Stars sprint competitions*, both inter-year and inter-band, creating friendly rivalry, excitement and plenty of prizes (as well as the occasional forfeit!). Our *CtL 1 Sprint*, which challenged students to complete additional work beyond their homework, was met with real enthusiasm.

Our **KS4 students** have equally demonstrated determination and focus. Years 10 and 11 have been working hard since receiving their predicted grades, showing real commitment to closing the gap to their targets. Their drive has been particularly evident in their NEA subjects, with many students pushing for *target grade +1*. Year 11 also completed their first set of PPEs and are now working closely with their teachers to make the improvements needed ahead of the summer. Both year groups have shown excellent dedication in keeping up with their Maths Weeklies. Well done to all involved!

Beyond the classroom, it has been a joy to see so many students enriching their school experience through **extra-curricular activities**. Highlights have included:

- Students selling poppies in Wigston for Remembrance;
- Year 9 geographers exploring Birmingham;
- Years 7, 8, and 9 historians taking part in an engaging trip to the University of Leicester;
- A group of students visiting a local care home to spread festive cheer through carol singing.

Our Performing Arts and creative teams have also shone this term. From our vibrant **Season Launch**, to the forthcoming **Winter Wonderland end-of-term extravaganza**, and our warmly received **community wreath-making class and Christmas market**, it has been a term filled with creativity and celebration.

Sporting achievements have been equally impressive. A special congratulations goes to our **Year 8 and Year 10 football teams**, both crowned champions of the Oadby & Wigston league and now proudly representing us in the County Cup. We wish them the very best of luck in the next rounds.

As we look ahead to the spring term, there is much to look forward to. We will be holding our **Year 9 Options Evening on 13th January**, followed by **Year 9 Parents' Evening on 20th January**. Year 11 students will also be taking part in their **mock interviews**, an invaluable opportunity to prepare for life beyond school.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. It plays a vital role in helping our students flourish. I wish all our students, families and staff a peaceful, joyful and well-deserved Christmas break.

Warmest wishes,



**Mr Chris Conlon – Headteacher Wigston Academy**

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

Christmas Break Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026


### SPRING TERM 2026

School Closed (Teacher Day) Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026

School Opens Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Mid Term Break Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Easter Break Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2026



Wigston Academy Parents & Carers

# KEY DATES FOR YOU DIARY

Find a copy of the full calendar on our website under the [Parents](#) section.

LEARN·ASPIRE·ACHIEVE

Date	Day	Event
5	JAN, MON	All day
6	JAN, TUE	All day
13	JAN, TUE	5 – 7pm
20	JAN, TUE	4 – 7pm
4	FEB, WED	4 – 7pm
16	FEB, MON	All day
17	FEB, TUE	All day
18	FEB, WED	All day
19	FEB, THU	All day
20	FEB, FRI	All day

WAT Teacher Day

Students Return

Year 9 - Options Evening

Year 9 - Parents Evening

Year 10 - Parents Evening

WAT February Half Term

WAT February Half Term

WAT February Half Term

WAT February Half Term

WAT February Half Term

### CEO Appointment

We are pleased to announce that following a national recruitment process, we have appointed Mrs Christine Stansfield as the new Chief Executive Officer for Wigston Academies Trust. Christine comes with a wealth of experience and skills having previously been a CEO in a growing trust. She is also a National Leader of Education. Christine will start her role on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Mrs P Munro – Chair of Trustees

## YEAR 7

Year 7 have had an action-packed and inspiring term! Our students took part in an exciting Times Tables Rockstars challenge against Year 8 and Year 9, and although Year 7 narrowly missed out on the top spot, the scores were incredibly close and we are so proud of every student who got involved. A massive shoutout to Skyla Beeson, Aoife O'Rourke, Kerlana St Brice, Max Wright, Sen Therese, Keyan Walton and David Dan.

A huge well done to K Band, who won the internal Year 7 band challenge, and an even bigger congratulations to Laura Poplawska, who achieved the highest score in the entire year group and was rewarded the Prize Hamper. As a result of L Band and J Band's loss, Miss Bhogal and Mrs Norton bravely completed their forfeit; arriving at lunchtime dressed as Mario and Luigi, much to Year 7's delight!

This term, students also received their progress scores and it has been wonderful to see so many taking pride in their achievements and planning how to continue improving. Our current year group average is +0.23, and we are working together towards an ambitious target of +1.26 by March.

We kindly ask parents to continue encouraging students to arrive to lessons on time, look after our school environment and treat one another with kindness as we move through the term.

**Miss Bhogal , Year 7 Progress Leader, and Miss Tabor-Brown, Year 7 Assistant Progress Leader**



## Year 8

As we come to the end of our first term, Year 8 have been a pleasure to work with. The students have embraced our new culture and are working incredibly hard. They have shown fantastic resilience, drive and ambition to be the best year group they can be.

We recently held our first Commitment to Learning celebration assembly, where students won some amazing prizes. So far this year, prizes have included an Android tablet, two smartwatches, a supercar experience in a Ferrari, Lamborghini, or Porsche, along with a host of other gifts and certificates. Our last prize of the term is an indoor skydiving experience, awarded after the final 'sprint' of the year. Good luck to everyone!

Miss Marsden, Miss Higgs and all our tutors are so pleased with the progress the year group has made. Improvements in behaviour, attendance, punctuality to lessons and punctuality to school mean students are more engaged in their learning and, ultimately, making better progress.

As ever, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as parents and carers, for all your support, it is hugely appreciated. Please feel free to contact me should you have any concerns or queries on 0116 2881228 or via email at [dhodgkinson@wigstonmat.org](mailto:dhodgkinson@wigstonmat.org).

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you have a safe and restful festive break.

**Mr Hodgkinson, Year 8 Progress Leader, and Ms Marsden, Year 8 Assistant Progress Leader**

## Year 9

As we come to the end of our final term of 2025, I wanted to reflect on what a positive and productive time it has been for our Year 9 students.

In November, we introduced our first Commitment to Learning data drop, which has already proved incredibly valuable. Students have shared thoughtful and enthusiastic feedback, telling us that the information has given them clear direction and a renewed sense of focus. It has been wonderful to see the individual targets they have set for themselves and to talk with them about the aspirations they are working towards.

We also celebrated our first ever Commitment to Learning Rewards Assembly. It was a fun, uplifting event and a fantastic opportunity to recognise the hard work and dedication shown by so many of our students. Giving out prizes and celebrating achievements helped inspire the whole year group to keep aiming high.

We are already looking ahead to the next data drop in March, which will offer another meaningful opportunity to reflect on the progress we are making and the goals we are striving to reach.

I wish you all a lovely, restful break. We hope everyone finds time to recharge, ready for a busy and successful 2026.

**Mrs Bentley, Year 9 Progress Leader, and Miss Quinn Year 9 Assistant Progress Leader**

## YEAR 10

What a long but very productive term for Year 10! Students have now received their target and predicted grades and have agreed action plans with their tutors, which will be reviewed in the New Year. Using this information, we will be inviting some parents in for Progress Meetings early next term.

Overleaf are photos of some of our students who are currently working above their target grade and were treated to a festive hot chocolate to celebrate their hard work!

Our Student Council, Year Presidents and Vice Presidents have also been busy launching a new reward system. Students now receive raffle tickets for any piece of work completed above their target grade. Winners will be drawn at our celebration assemblies at the end of each half term.



The second work-experience letter will be issued in January and it has been fantastic to see so many students proactively securing placements already. Our Careers Team continues to support students throughout this process.

All ordered revision books should now have been distributed. If your child is missing anything, please let us know. A reminder that students have access to the library every day until 4 pm and during every lunchtime. Students just need to collect a pass from the Year 10 Team. This is a great opportunity for quiet revision.

As expected at this time of year, we have seen a rise in illness-related absences. We hope this will settle as we move into Spring. Please remember that Year 10 attendance appears on College applications, so it is essential that students attend as consistently as possible. Much of the classwork is also available on Teams, so if your child has been absent, please encourage them to catch up independently at home.

Thank you once again for your support this term. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [rchapman@wigstonmat.org](mailto:rchapman@wigstonmat.org)

We wish you all a restful break and a Merry Christmas to those who are celebrating. We look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!



**Mrs Chapman, Year 10 Progress Leader, and Miss Gregory, Year 10 Assistant Progress Leader**

## **YEAR 11**

Year 11 have had a busy and successful term, The vast majority are working with determination to improve their predicted GCSE grades. It has been a pleasure seeing them positively engaging in lessons.

We are really pleased with the number of students who are choosing to stay after school for intervention sessions, we know their dedication and hard work will be worth it! Please encourage your child to attend the sessions offered, it will make a difference to their outcomes. We have also been supporting students with NEA coursework during tutor times, lunchtimes and after school. Many deadlines are coming up. Please support your child by ensuring they are up to date with their NEA work.

Many of our students have taken part in A Level taster sessions which the majority thoroughly enjoyed. We received lovely feedback from Sixth Form teachers about their positivity, enthusiasm and

engagement. Well done to all involved, we are proud of you. We have rewarded many students in assemblies for their great achievements this term and we look forward to what next term brings!

We hope you have a nice, relaxing Christmas and we wish you all a happy New Year 2026. Well done Year 11, it has been a great term. We are really enjoying working with you. Have a good break, and we look forward to seeing you for a super busy 2026!

**Miss Bramley, Year 11 Progress Leader and Mrs Brennan, Year 11 Assistant Progress Leader**

# TOP TEN STUDENTS

## Commitment to Learning Points

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Amane Ali	Khaleesi Allsop	Adam Atkins
Dylan Bidmead	Emmie Bates	Jonah Hill
Jacot Crewe	Amelia Douglas-Boyd	Tyler Hill
Sophia Hing	Kimberly Kunaka	Charlie Jeffrey
Abigail Lo	Oliver Lane	Afia-Shae Lovemore
Alba Muddimer	Sophie Loach	Vanesa Malollari
Noah Ntamack Maput	Geogia McLeod	Chloe Nairn
Jagjot Sarai	Mikey Preston	Callum Noble
Oluchi Udoka	Sienna Sadler	Olly Robinson
Max Wright	Oliver Stevens	Jassica Sarai

### Polite Request

We kindly ask for your support in being considerate of our local neighbours during school pick-up and drop-off times. Please ensure that you park safely and legally, avoid blocking driveways or pathways and keep noise to a minimum while waiting for your children.

Your cooperation helps us maintain positive relationships within the community and ensures a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

## Exciting update from the English Department

As part of our Remembrance Day, we offered our students the chance to enter the Young Writers War Poetry Competition. Seven students have submitted touching poems, showing their understanding of both Remembrance and conflict. They will receive updates about whether their work has been selected for publishing after the Christmas Break.

We would like to share the poem written by Adam Atkins in Year 9. He has taken inspiration from the poetry unit that we have been exploring with Year 9 during this half term.

### ***“Goodnight my love” by Adam Atkins***

*flowers grow where my feet touch his  
O’ why in this great war, must we separate though?  
nothing could ever ruin this*

*I’m against him but the thing is  
you got to, you must know  
flowers grow where my feet touch his*

*the crushing weight of which we can’t resist  
the tyranny we undergo  
nothing could ever ruin this*

*murky clouds hurriedly cover this  
inky sky of deepened indigo  
flowers grow where my feet touch his*

*I trek as this is worth the risk  
for the mud shall squelch below  
nothing could ever ruin this*

*O’ I do reminisce in absented memory  
his gun met my eyes on the plateau,  
flowers grow where my feet touch his  
nothing could ever ruin this*

*bonne nuit mi amor  
à bientôt.*

# Black History Month at WAT



## “Standing Firm in Power and Pride”

In October 2025, Wigston Academies Trust marked Black History Month with a series of activities held throughout the month. This year’s theme was **“Standing Firm in Power and Pride.”**

Students took part in an interform Black History Month quiz, giving them the opportunity to explore and celebrate UK Black history. Mr Mansoor and Mrs Nemauro also delivered assemblies to all year groups, which were warmly received. As part of these assemblies, students learned about former Leicester Mayor George Cole, using his story of resilience as inspiration for how they can demonstrate resilience in their own lives.

The Academy also hosted hair-braiding workshops during lunchtime for Years 7/8, 9/10 and 12/13, where students practised braiding using hairdressing heads. These sessions, led by Mrs Nemauro, were enjoyed and appreciated by all who attended.

To conclude the month, the College and Academy canteen introduced a special Black History Month menu on the final day of October, offering Jamaican patties, jerk chicken wraps and jerk chicken paninis. The canteen was decorated with bunting to mark the celebration and the menu proved extremely popular, selling out within minutes.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the events and are already looking forward to future celebrations.



The Stephen Lawrence Ambassadors in Years 9 and 10 also presented during the Black History assemblies to encourage students to join the programme, resulting in five new ambassadors signing



up. The Stephen Lawrence Ambassador Programme is centred on empowering young people to use their voices to help build a society that treats everyone with fairness and respect.

Thanks to the inclusive work carried out over the past two years at Wigston Academy, Mrs Nemauro was invited in November by Baroness Lawrence and the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre at De Montfort University to join the team visiting the House of Lords to present the Stephen Lawrence Ambassador Programme. The group proposed expanding the programme nationally and introducing a Stephen Lawrence Charter Mark to recognise schools committed to social justice and inclusivity.

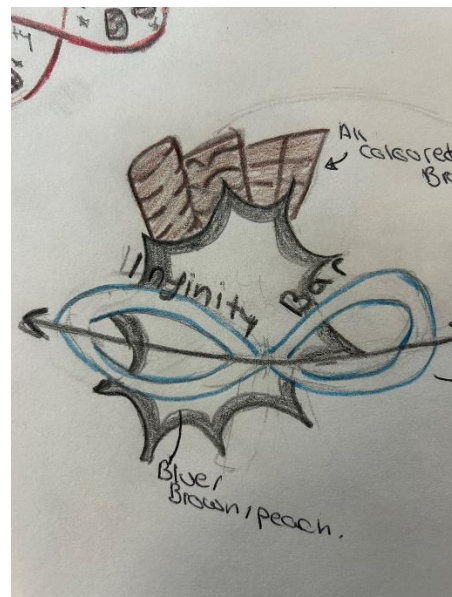
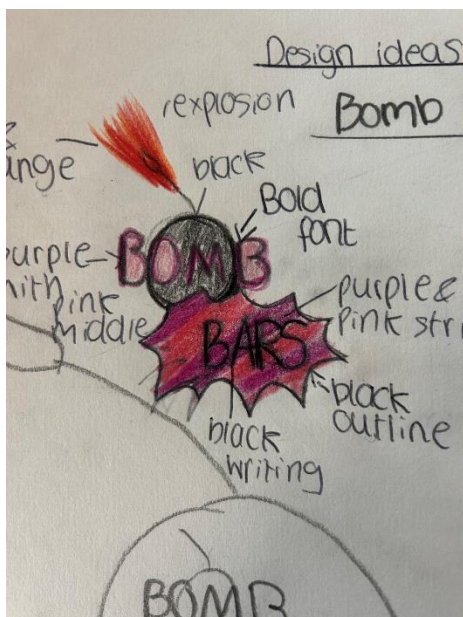
The Leicester delegation included educators, an executive headteacher, MAT CEOs, MPs, academics, former ambassadors now studying at Oxford University and the Vice-Chancellor of De Montfort University. It was an inspiring experience to hear how the programme has positively influenced schools across the city and county. We look forward to championing the ambassador programme and supporting its inclusive initiatives throughout this academic year.

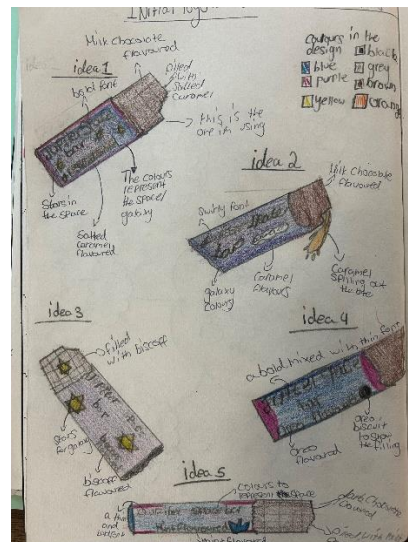
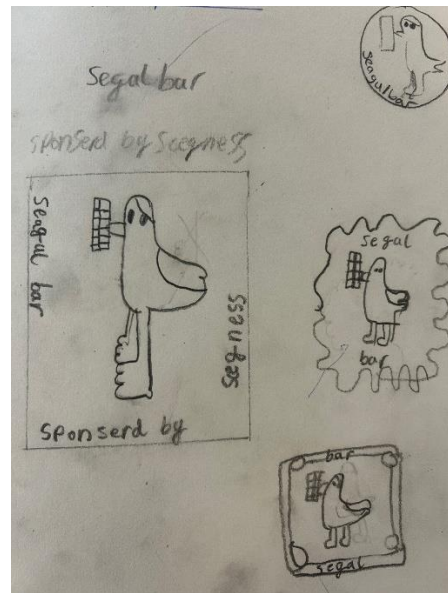
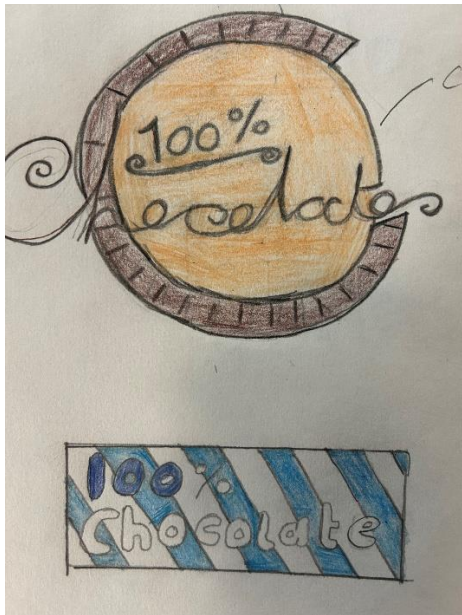
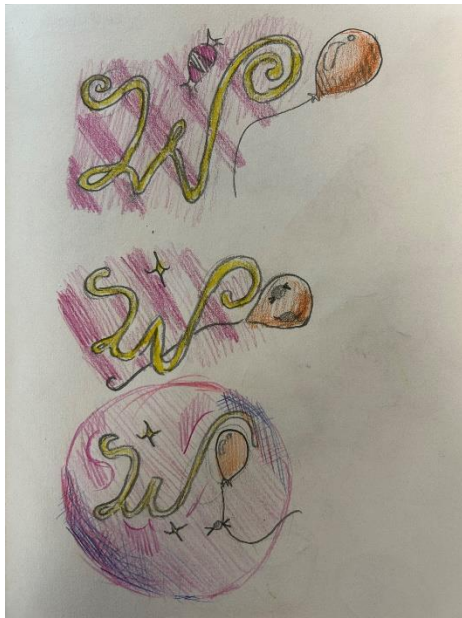


**Equity and Diversity Team**

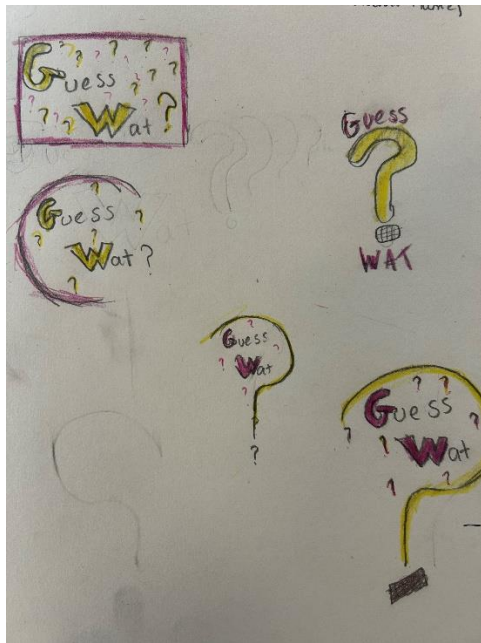
**ADT**

Year 8 graphics have been creating design ideas for their own chocolate packaging. Their logos show a range of creativity and we are excited to see how they progress.









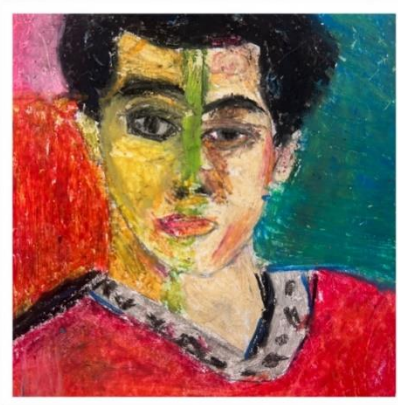
Year 9 art have been looking at traditional artists and recreating some of their work.

These are inspired by Picasso abstract portraits.





Year 9 art have been recreating 'The green stripe' by Henri Matisse, looking at colour mixing with oil pastels.



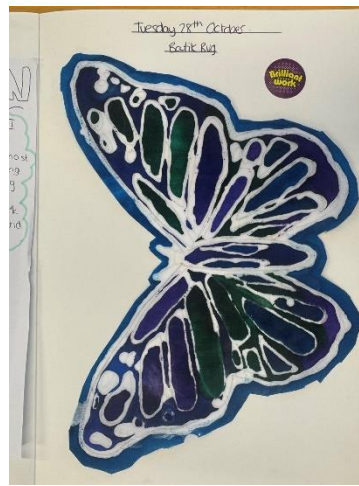


Year 8 graphics have been drawing chocolate bars from observation and using water colour to add colour to their drawings. They've done an incredible job.

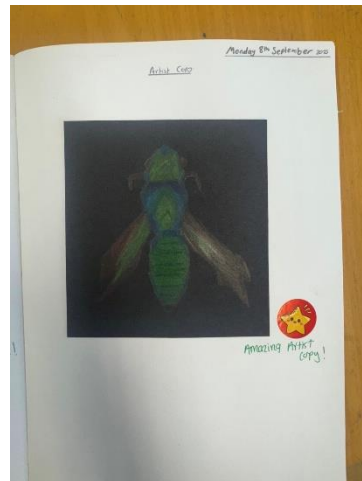
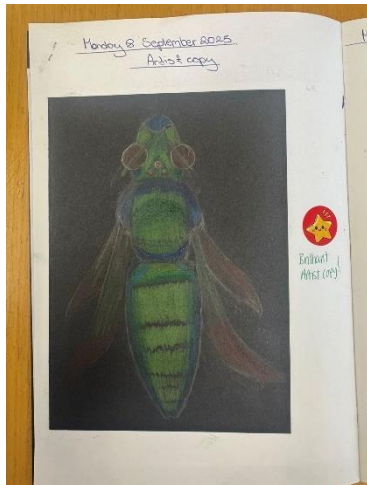


Year 9 textiles have been learning the technique called batik and have been inspired by artist Caroline Kaufman.



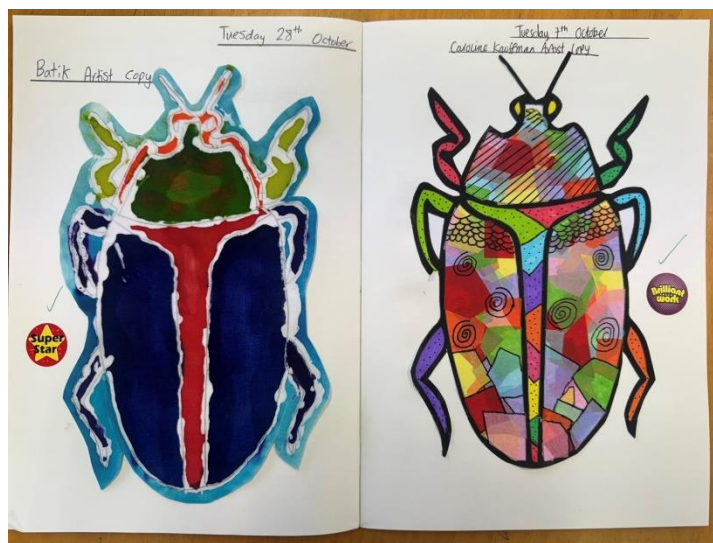
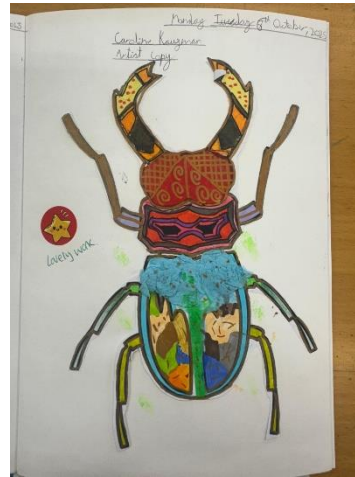


As part of the Year 9 textiles project, students have been exploring colour work on black paper, using their observational skills to capture the beautiful colours in the insects.





Year 9 have also been exploring the use of collage to create their colourful bugs in textiles, developing their understanding of different techniques and media.



Year 7 graphics with Miss Guiver have been practicing their one point perspective, drawing skills by creating lovely scenes.





**Miss Robinson – Head of ADT**

## PE and Sports News

The PE Department and students have been as busy as ever with lots of extra-curricular clubs, fixtures and events.

### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We continue to achieve brilliant numbers for all of our extra-curricular clubs. This term has seen the start of the ever-popular Girls' Football Club and also the introduction of KS3 Multi-Sports Club to add to the Boys Football, Hockey, Badminton and Netball Clubs.

All clubs are free and finish at 4.15 pm. 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 league action came to a dramatic conclusion for all 5 of our teams whilst the National Cup also continues...

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

Year 7 Boys WON 5-2

Year 8 Boys WON 5-0

Year 9 Boys LOST

Year 10 Boys WON 5-1

Year 11 Boys DREW 2-2 – WON ON PENALTIES



The next set of fixtures were against Gartree. The results were:

Year 7 Boys DREW 2-2

Year 8 Boys WON 5-3

Year 9 Boys LOST 2-1

Year 10 Boys WON 2-0

Year 11 Boys DREW 0-0

These results meant that both our Year 8 and Year 10 teams were crowned Oadby and Wigston Champions and will now go on to represent the area in the County Cup. A brilliant achievement – well done all!

Meanwhile, in the National Cup, the Year 7 team faced Thomas Estley at home and put in a stunning second half display to win 6-2. They then faced Murray Park School in round 3 and, despite a second half comeback, didn't have enough to progress. A great effort lads and it all looks promising for next year.

The Year 8 team faced Robert Smyth, who they lost to comfortably last season. This time the boys showed amazing team spirit and resilience to win 3-1 and progress to round 3. Unfortunately, they came up against a very strong Cedars team in the next round where they were knocked out. Attention now turns to the County Cup after Christmas.

The Year 9 team also overcame a recent rival with a spectacular team display against South Wigston in round 2 of the National Cup. They drew 3-3 and then held their nerve to win on penalties. This set up a home tie v Brockington in round 3. The team showed, once again, how good they can be with a comfortable 3-1 win. Next up was Northampton School in round 4. The team was unfortunately depleted due to injuries and in a close game, the lack of fresh legs made all the difference, as we lost 5-3. A great run this year. Well done lads.

The Year 10 Boys welcomed Welland Park to Wigston Academy in Round 2 and produced a brilliant performance to run out 5-3 winners. It was Kibworth up next in round 4 (after a walkover in round 3) and a familiar face in the opposition dugout; Mr Phillips! In a competitive match, the boys showed incredible resilience at 3-1 down with 5 minutes to go with 2 late goals setting up a penalty shootout. The lads held their nerve and won 4-2 to progress into round 5. The Kings School from Grantham would be their round 5 opponents. Once again, the boys showed a brilliant attitude throughout to run out 3-2 winners and book their place in the final 32. Well done lads and good luck after the Christmas break.

The Year 11 Boys weren't to be outdone though and produced a superb round 2 performance away v Babington to come out with a 4-0 win. Next up was a home fixture against Coundon Court from Coventry. Once again, they showed brilliant determination and team work to progress with a 3-2 win. In round 4 they faced Redmoor at home. The boys showed their resilience and team spirit to grab a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw. Unfortunately, penalties proved a step too far as they lost 3-2. That brings to an end a fantastic and very successful 5 years at Wigston Academy for this team, including being Oadby and Wigston Champions four times and winning the County Cup at Seagrave. Mr Dandolo wanted to thank all of the students involved and that is has been an absolute pleasure managing them. Well done lads.



We also gave another 30 Year 7 Boys the opportunity to represent the school as the Year 7B teams took on Kibworth in a friendly tournament. There was some brilliant football on display but, more importantly, it was lovely to see so many students enjoying and being proud to represent their school. Well done all.

### **Netball**

The Netball league fixtures came to an end with matches v Gartree. The results were:

Year 8 WON 23-4

Year 9 LOST

Year 10 LOST

Year 11 LOST

Our amazing Year 11 team played in their final County Tournament. They put on a good show and despite not progressing, did themselves proud.



Our Year 7 team made their school debut in the Oadby and Wigston Tournament. They produced some amazing netball and finished joint 1<sup>st</sup>, narrowly missing out on the County Cup on goal difference. The future looks very bright for these girls and we look forward to seeing them back in action in the South Leicestershire Tournament later in the year.

We look forward to seeing all of our teams back in action in the South Leicestershire Tournaments in the New Year.

### **Sports Leadership**

Our wonderful Year 11 Sports Leaders were in action for a final time as they welcomed a number of Primary Schools to the Primary Sporting Ambassadors Conference alongside our friends at Learning South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership. It was a great day with over 50 students in attendance and our leaders once again received so many positive comments from the organisers and school staff.



The Sports Leadership baton was then passed on to the new Year 10 cohort. They maintained the high standards as they visited our feeder Primary schools to deliver various sport sessions to the students. All five of our feeder schools have been visited and 30 different Year 10 students have been involved. A big well done to all of them for how they conducted themselves, receiving lots of positive comments along the way!

### **Girls' Active Lifestyle**

A small group of Year 8 girls were lucky enough to attend the GAL's Day at Huncote Leisure Centre in October. It was a chance to look at how we can help more girls be regularly active and, as well as having some meaningful conversations and training, the girls got to try out Cheerleading and Clubbercise. We look forward to what they have planned for our school!





## PE Twitter – Up-to-date Information

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

## Community Bulletin

This is always a busy term for community events. Below is our list of our community/charity events that have taken place over the last few months as we support both local and national charities. We are always extremely grateful for the generous donations and involvement from our parents, carers and students.

### **Staff Macmillan Coffee Morning**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September staff joined in with largest coffee morning event in support of Macmillan. Staff took part in baking and donating - thank you for all the support.



### **Charity Calendar**

**Week Beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – Poppy Selling for Remembrance Day

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Odd Socks Day (Anti-Bullying Week)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November** – Children In Need

**24<sup>th</sup> Nov – 5<sup>th</sup> Dec** – Festive Treat Collection for Open Hands charity, supporting families experiencing poverty and homelessness in Leicester.





## Children In Need

This year at the Academy we hosted a Wigston Academy Bake Off for Children In Need - thank you to all the students that baked for us. Below are our 3 winners.

**Overall Winner** – Amelia Douglas-Boyd 8LMc for her Pudsey themed cake.

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** - Rebecca Correia 7Kwa for her gooey chocolate cake

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** – Tyler Hill for his cupcake selection

All the above students have received prizes.

We raised £73 by having a cake sale for all year groups using all the baked cakes, thank you again!



## Festive Treat Collection for Open Hands

We also collected festive treats for the Open Hands charity. All tutor groups were given a Christmas bag to fill with treats. We then delivered them to the charity in time for them to make someone's Christmas a little more special.



## **WA Preloved Uniform Shop**

At Wigston Academy we have an excellent preloved uniform shop, would you be willing to donate any pre-loved school uniform items to be a part of our Pre-loved Uniform Shop? Look out for times on our website to come and support and grab yourself a bargain.

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!



## **Careers Update**

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

Click here to find out more about the careers programme at Wigston Academy

<https://wigstonmat.org/careers-home/>

## **Year 9 Work Shadowing – 26<sup>th</sup> November**

Over half of students attended work for the day with parents or carers. This gave students the opportunity to experience the world of work. It was a very positive day for all students involved who have been sharing their positive experiences on their return to school.

## **The Food Challenge Enterprise Day**

The students in school participated in a full day enterprise activity. The students learnt about the food industry, prompting discussions about food wastage. Students worked in small groups to evaluate their own strengths within a team, create a name, logo, and ideas for their 'business'. Students also delivered a presentation to the group. This was a fantastic day for all involved and gave students the opportunity to develop vital employability skills such as teamwork, creativity, problem solving and presentation skills



## Year 11 PS@16

Year 11 students worked hard on their application for PS@16 – the central online database for College applications.

Support is ongoing from the Careers Team to help students make their choices and complete their applications.

## Year 10 Work Experience 27<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

The student deadline for submitting employer forms is **Friday, 23rd January 2026**.

We have been running lunchtime support sessions for Year 10 students, delivered by the Careers Team, and we plan to extend these sessions in the new year. Students are encouraged to contact companies directly to arrange their work experience placements, helping them develop confidence in speaking with new people and gaining a better understanding of the world of work.

Spare copies of the work experience form are available at Main Reception

If you have any further questions, please contact the Careers Team at [careers@wigstonmat.org](mailto:careers@wigstonmat.org)

## Performing Arts

As we enter the festive season in our Performing Arts Department, we reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term. Our Season Launch in October was a tremendous success, featuring more than 120 students who showcased their talents in music, dance and drama. The event also highlighted exceptional GCSE and A Level work in Dance and Drama. The level of skill, creativity and enthusiasm on display was truly inspiring.

We were also delighted to perform for a local care home in Aylestone (Lady Jayne Court), where 15 of our students shared festive cheer through carol singing. This meaningful community event is one we are privileged to participate in, offering a valuable opportunity for connection between our students and the residents—many of whom regularly support our productions. Students were impeccable and are a huge asset to the Trust; we are very privileged to have them all.





Looking ahead, preparations for Winter Wonderland on the 17th and 18th of December are well underway, and our students have been working with remarkable commitment.

I am pleased to announce that auditions for our 2025 production, *The Prince of Egypt*, have now concluded, and we have assembled an outstanding cast and ensemble. Rehearsals have already begun for what promises to be an extraordinary production, the premiere of which will take place here at Wigston Academies Trust, following the recent release of the amateur performance licence. To offer a glimpse of what's in store, we will be sharing a special preview during Winter Wonderland. Tickets for this and all upcoming performances are available on the Academy/College website, please do secure your seats early.

Our department continues to thrive, with a range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities taking place. In addition, we are running a specialist workshop for our Year 9 drama students as we continue to nurture and develop their growing talents.

It is truly inspiring to see such enthusiasm and dedication from students across all year groups as they embrace the many opportunities available to them. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of colleagues, parents and our wider community, for which we are sincerely grateful.

I am also pleased to share an update on our ongoing charity work. In October, we hosted a staff and community quiz night, a hugely enjoyable event that also supported our wellbeing provision. On this occasion, we raised **£536.79** for our chosen charity, **Wishes 4 Kids**.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and of Performing Arts. We wish you a peaceful, healthy, and joyful Christmas.

**Miss Watkiss – Head of Performing Arts**





# Wigston Academies Trust Wreath Making Workshop and Christmas Market

On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November, we held the inaugural Wigston Academies Trust charity wreath-making workshop and Christmas market. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and the wreath-making workshops were a swift sell-out! Everyone who attended enjoyed a fantastic evening, learning new skills, creating stunning wreaths and meeting new people along the way.

We would like to extend our thanks to Oakberry Trees, Dunton Bassett, for their generous support of the event.

The Christmas market featured over 15 stalls, all showcasing local crafters with no repetition, making it the perfect place to purchase unique, handcrafted gifts. Our chosen charity this year was LOROS, and thanks to the support of everyone who attended both the market and the workshops, we raised over £660 for this wonderful cause.

The atmosphere throughout was truly special, with many guests already asking to book for next year. We're delighted to share that planning is already underway!

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the event, we couldn't have done it without you.

**Ailie Pollon, Heidi Robinson and Louise Stone**









Please find below just a few of the fabulous contributions to our Christmas Card competition

