

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear parents and carers

At the end of a half-term, it's always a good time to look back and see what we have accomplished. January seems a long time ago now, and in that time, we have held a wonderful school production, met Year 11 parents for their Progress Evening, held a well-attended and very informative Year 9 Options evening, and ran some amazing trips out of school. All of this, in addition to the excellent teaching and learning that has taken place and our extensive extra-curricular offer, it has made it a fantastic half-term.

In response to student voice, we also launched a new rewards system this half term. The core motivation behind the new system was to engage students, to encourage them to contribute to lessons and to be rewarded for working hard. During this period, we have seen nearly twenty-one thousand achievement points given out, which is a marked increase from the same period last academic year. I am aware of some of the issues the new reward system has highlighted, as we have said this was very much a trial period to see what would work. It is clear that despite the huge positives, there are some tweaks that need to be made in order to make the rewards even more equitable. We have taken the feedback from students, staff and parents and we will be making the necessary changes for next term. I would like to thank those who have contacted us to make suggestions and we will take those comments on board.

We look forward to next half-term which is only four weeks long, and there is an awful lot to pack-in. We see students out for the Ski Trip and the German Hosting Exchange in addition to the Year 10s and 11s who will be undertaking their Mock Exams.

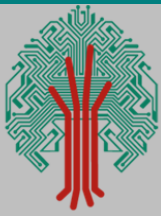
Can I please draw your attention to the second page of this newsletter. Mrs Burgess and the Prom Committee are hosting a showcase evening on Monday 19.2.24. If your youngster is looking for a dress or suit for Prom please do go along—I have seen some of the dresses and they are fantastic!

Finally, I would like to thank all of the students and their families for the support we have received this year. On the background of economic and political uncertainty, the support of the parents, carers and the community has been outstanding, and cements my belief that Welland Park Academy truly is a special place to work.

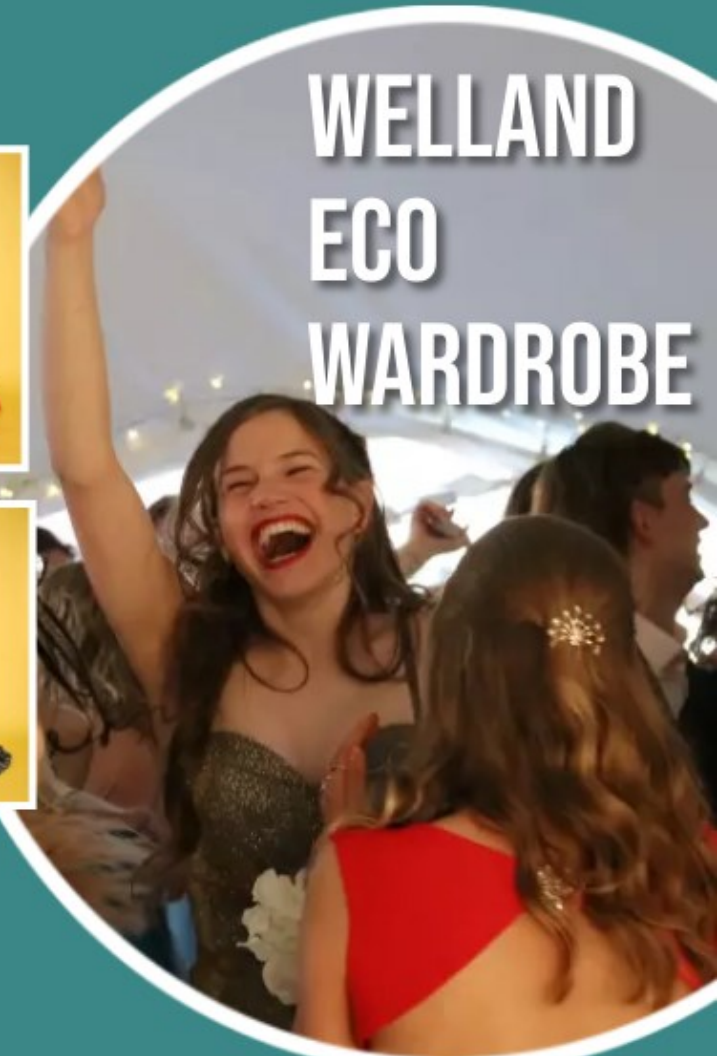
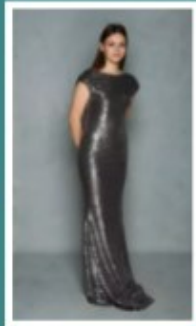
Have a lovely half-term break.

Pete Leatherland—Principal





OUTFITS AVAILABLE TO HIRE OR BUY—PRICES START AT £25.00



WELLAND ECO WARDROBE

WE CAN PROVIDE :

- SHOES
- SHIRTS
- DRESSES
- TIES
- SUITS
- BAGS
- JEWELLERY

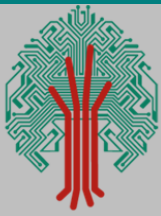
Are you thinking about Prom?

Do you need an outfit for a special occasion?

You can hire or buy - low prices

A large range of styles and sizes

MONDAY 19.2.24 - 6.30 TO 8.30PM
WELLAND PARK ACADEMY



Maths Challenge Success

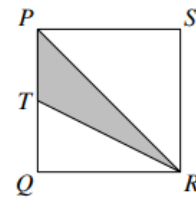
Recently, 60 students in Years 9 and 10 attempted the UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. This consists of 25 problems to promote thinking and reasoning, as well as testing their problem solving skills.

We were delighted to see that 38 students were awarded either a gold, silver or bronze certificate.

Maisie Harding scored the highest in Year 9 and Thomas Walls in Year 10 scored the highest in the school. Thomas Walls and Aran Roberts performed so well that they have been invited to participate in the Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

Here is an example of a question which came up this year:

The diagram shows the square $PQRS$ and T , the mid-point of the side PQ .
What fraction of the area of the square $PQRS$ is shaded?



A $\frac{1}{4}$

B $\frac{1}{3}$

C $\frac{1}{2}$

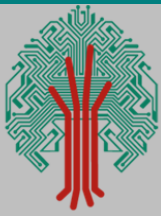
D $\frac{2}{3}$

E $\frac{3}{4}$



Well done to all students involved!





Citizenship and Careers Update

Since we passed the Careers inspection in the winter term, we have pressed on to continue to deliver as many Careers opportunities as possible for our students. Year 11 students completed their final practice interviews with local employers, before finalising their applications for further study after Welland Park. Year 10 students are currently receiving their one on one Careers advise meeting with Mrs Hix and Year 9 have their first mock interview with members of our local community after the half term break. Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (who are funded by the government) have asked for feedback on students' experience of Careers, so please feel free to complete their survey here:

<https://lep.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/2023-24-welland-park-parents-survey>

This week in Citizenship, Key Stage 4 students delivered a lesson to our younger students on how to be an active bystander. This was part of the Mentors in Violence scheme, which aims to supports young people to challenge unacceptable behaviour. It was fantastic to see our students showing such confidence and engaging Year 7 and 8 students in such an important topic. We also welcomed WizeUp Financial Education who presented to our Year 11 students about credit cards, savings and student finance. It was a great session and thank you to Market Harborough Building Society for funding it once again.

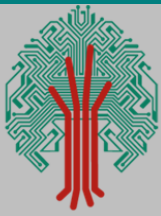


FAREWELL

This week we say goodbye to 2 members of our Learning Support department.

Mrs Yarnold has worked at Welland Park Academy for over 14 years and Mr Campbell for 4 years.

They will both be very greatly missed and we wish them all the very best.



| Welland Park Academy Lunch & Deli Menu Week commencing 26th February 2024 | | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| Week 3 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Concept | Authentic Italian | Tex Mex | Best of British | Asian | Fab Friday |
| Option 1 | Chicken Meatballs in Bharat tomato sauce | BBQ Chicken Wrap | Chicken & Leek Pie | BBQ Mandarin Pork | Sausages |
| Option 2 | Vegetable Lasagne | Chipotle Sweet Potato & Lime Taco | Cheese Slice | Hoi Sin Vegetables | Beetroot & Feta Burger |
| Sides | Cous cous Green Salad | Garlic & Herb Wedges Tanga Slaw | Roasties Roasted Roots | Beggars Noodles / Sweet Chilli Slaw | Chips & Beans |
| Authentic Italian | Authentic Italian Pizza and Pasta Bar | | | | |
| Hot Deli | Cheese & Tomato Panini Jacket & Topping | Tuna Melt Panini Jacket & Topping | Cheese & Onion Panini Jacket & Topping | Roasted Veg Panini Jacket & Topping | Cheese Panini Jacket & Topping |

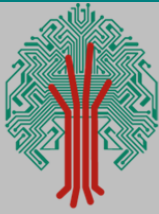
FUNDRAISING RAFFLE FOR PE

The PE department have been running a raffle to raise funds to put towards student kit for the Netherlands Sports Tour in April 2024. The winners were drawn today and will be presented with their prizes during assembly after half term.

Lewis Hamilton replica helmet—Ethan Bowden

Signed England rugby shirt from the 2019-20 season—Markus Penchev





All National Online Safety. We believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ONLINE DATING & RELATIONSHIPS

Most online dating apps claim to be for over-18s only but, in some cases, relaxed age verification also allows children to access them. What's more, some popular social media platforms use similar design features to many dating sites – blurring the line between why a young person initially downloads an app and what they actually end up using it for.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone forms a connection with a child in the digital world and carefully cultivates this relationship with the intention of manipulating the child into doing something sexual or illegal. The process involves gaining the young person's confidence – which can't be them for less likely to tell a trusted adult about their new online 'friend', or to recognise what is even happening.

WEBCAM BLACKMAIL

Some young people have been coaxed into getting nude or semi-nude on a video chat with someone they met on a dating platform. They're then told that, unless they hand over a certain amount of money, a recording of the video will be posted online (or possibly sent to their contacts). This can be hugely traumatic for a young person and, in extreme cases, has resulted in self-harm and even suicide.

DAMAGE TO SELF ESTEEM

Many dating platforms encourage users to rate the images that people upload; this has clear potential to negatively impact a young person's self-esteem. On some apps, pictures of a user's face and body can be rated anonymously, with notifications informing them if someone has then declined to match with them. This form of rejection can feel extremely hurtful and degrading.

CATFISHING AND SCAMS

Creating a false identity to deliberately lure people into a relationship (whether romantic or platonic) online is known as catfishing. Commonly, someone pretends to share interests or beliefs with their victim and gradually gains their trust. A young person's feelings for this fake 'friend' may cloud their judgement and can lead to them surrendering money, personal images, passwords and so on.

STALKING AND HARASSMENT

Stalking is obsessive behaviour by a fixated individual which disrupts their victim's life. It can bring severe distress and even the fear of violence. There have been frequent reports of stalking cases that originated on dating apps, with perpetrators creating new accounts in response to being reported or blocked. It's a particular cause for concern if a young person has ever given out personal details (such as their street or school name) online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

Reassure your child that they can always talk to you about anything online that's worried them. Emphasise that if they're being sent unwanted images – or if they've shared images or video content themselves – they should tell you straight away. Discuss the potential risks of online dating and check in with them frequently to ensure that they're feeling comfortable about their online relationships.

TAKE A 'SAFETY FIRST' STANDPOINT

Encourage young people to be careful about who they send invitations to – and accept them from – on dating sites and apps. Familiarise yourself with how to adjust the privacy settings on your child's devices and apps to help them control who can access their profiles and information. Talk to your child about why it's unwise to share any sensitive, private or confidential information in their profile.

PROTECT CONTACT DETAILS

If a young person is interested in using online dating sites or apps, strongly encourage them to choose one that offers the facility to conceal both parties' email addresses when messaging prospective dates. If that's not possible, ensure that the young person sets up a separate email address which doesn't include their real name. This is easy to do via providers like iCloud, Yahoo Mail or Gmail.

HIGHLIGHT COMMON DANGER SIGNS

Talk to your child about some of the obvious red flags in online dating: requests for money, for instance, should always ring alarm bells. Likewise, if a young person is in contact with someone who they feel is pressuring them into providing personal or financial information – or who they suspect is trying to trick them into it – they should end communication immediately and contact the dating service provider.

Meet Our Expert
Rebecca Jennings has more than 20 years' experience in the field of relationships, sex and health education (RSHE). As well as delivering workshops and training for young people, parents and teachers, she is also a subject matter expert on RSHE for the Department of Education.

The National College | National Online Safety | #WakeUpWednesday

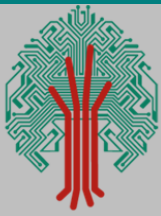
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WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
7 MARCH 2024

Welland Park Book Swap

- **On Thursday 7th March, we will be hosting a book swap in the library at break and lunch time.**
- **We just need ... books! Do you have any books at home which you no longer need and could donate?**
- **If so, please bring them into the library after half term. You will receive a token for every book you donate, which can be exchanged for new books at the fair ☺**
- **The books will also be available to buy for 20p – a bargain!**



Y10 RE visits to the Methodist Church

Over the last two weeks during their RE lessons, our Year 10 GCSE RE students have visited the local Methodist Church in Market Harborough with Mrs Sullivan to gain a better understanding of the importance of Infant and Believer's Baptisms, alongside Holy Communion. Students have really enjoyed both visits, particularly some singing of their favourite hymns and taking part in a mock baptism and a short Holy Communion service.

A big thank you to the Reverend Andy Murphy for inviting us to the Methodist Church, and to Mr Warren and Mrs Hix for accompanying our visit.



HAPPY
HALF
TERM