

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

Things are slowly starting to feel festive around the Academy! With the arrival of Christmas trees and a few decorations appearing here and there, the countdown to the holidays has begun.

I'm delighted to remind you that our Christmas Concert will take place on Monday 1st December, 7:00–8:30pm. I can't wait to see our talented students perform in the newly refurbished Octagonal Hall, complete with new seating and curtains. I hope you've found our new ticketing system, TicketTailor, easy to navigate.

This week, I'm incredibly proud to share Niamh Whelan's poem with you in this newsletter. Niamh is an exceptional writer and has achieved first place in the 11–17 years poetry category of a competition run by Wingates Gallery, in association with Creative Harborough and Harborough District Council. Even more impressively, she has been named Junior Poet Laureate for the Harborough District. Amazing work, Niamh – we are all so proud of you!

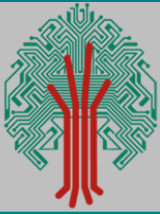
Have a lovely weekend, everyone.

Warm regards

Pete Leatherland—Principal



Some of our Year 11 students were very keen to help Mrs Sensicall decorate one of our school Christmas trees during their social time today. This tree is at the bottom of the main staircase.



Newsletter Issue 12



A brand new poetry and short story writing competition was launched this year across the Harborough District. This was to encourage participation, support the development and raise awareness of the arts in the Harborough District specifically focusing on recognising creative writing in the form of poetry and short stories.

The competition was run by Wingates Gallery in association with Creative Harborough and Harborough District Council and we are absolutely delighted to share that one of our Year 11 students, Niamh Whelan, came first in the 11-17 years poetry section. Niamh has also been named as the Junior Poet Laureate for the Harborough District. Huge congratulations to all of the participants but special celebrations for Niamh. Here is her winning poem—**ROOTS**

I have known her since my life began.
From the earth she emerged, and though
she knew not what life meant for her,
she knew that she desired it, to reach the sky -
take root. I took my first steps toward her, spoke
my first words in her ear. At night I listened
to her lullaby, the wind's song whispered through
her fingers, and together we shared our dreams.
When spring came she was fuller, stronger,
lusher arms grazed the heavens, though
she seemed twisted in her own gnarled mandala
all knotting limbs - no trace of the elegance
displayed by her kinfolk. Despite this,
I saw a beauty in her that I never seemed to see
within myself.
Summer arrived. Birds flew from the South;
in their nesting they found a home, as did I,
and despite the motions of life, I often still returned
to find solace in her presence, I sat at her base,
told her the trials of living, and she listened.

I picked a fruit, hanging low, and tasted its sweet
fireworks on my tongue. She did not protest.
By Autumn her birds had left, flown for clearer skies,
I too had moved on and found that time was slipping
through my fingers. I came home to find her
withering away, at her feet a carpet of her own
misgivings. I recalled in her infancy how hope
seemed to be woven within her veins, then
how she always listened, yet never spoke.
Winter. With trembling hands I gesture to my
grandchildren
illustrating the arcs of her great branches.
It pains me that they cannot see her in her glory
as I did. Reduced to a stump, she was skeletal,
ashen like the hands of pale death.
And though I mourn her loss, I know
that deep in the earth, her roots remain,
and within them infused
the love she gave, and bore like a brand.



FESTIVE PUDDING CLUB

Our previous Pudding Club events have been very successful so we are organising another!

Do you like desserts and cake; bingo; quizzes; karaoke and having a bit of a laugh?

Could this be an alternative to a Christmas night out for you and your family or friends?

If the answer is yes to any of those things, come along to our Jingle and Mingle on Friday 12th December 2025.

If you have not been to a Pudding Club event before it is quite simple - you get to play bingo, participate in a quiz and, if you fancy yourself as a bit of a singer, have a go at Karaoke - all whilst eating as much cake and dessert as you like. The cake and desserts are provided but you may bring your own drink.

We would suggest the event is suitable for ages 16 and over.

Tickets are available from the front office and are priced at £5 each.



Welland Park Academy Lunch & Deli Menu Week commencing 1st December 25

WEEK 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Concept	Mexican	American	Tex-mex	Best of British	Chip Day
Option 1	Chilli Con Carne	Hot Dogs with Crispy Onions	BBQ Chicken Wings	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy	Cod Fillet Fish Fingers
Option 2	Vegetarian Chilli	Mac 'n' Cheese	BBQ Vegetable Wrap	Creamy Vegetable Bake	Veggie Nuggets
Sides	Rice Sweetcorn	Hand-cut Wedges Peas	Firecracker Rice Coleslaw	Roast Potatoes Roasted Vegetables	Chips Baked Beans
Authentic Italian	Authentic Italian Pizza and Pasta Bar				
Hot Deli	Panini Jacket & Topping	Panini Jacket & Topping	Panini Jacket & Topping	Panini Jacket & Topping	Panini Jacket & Topping



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

We will be starting the month and the festive period off with our fabulous Winter Concert on Monday 1st December. There are still a few tickets left which can be booked via TicketTailor.



Mr Styles, English teacher, is starting the annual Reverse Advent in aid of the Jubilee Food Bank on Monday. Whilst specific items are listed for each day, we will accept anything that you think would be appropriate.

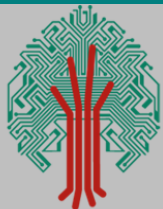
**WELLAND PARK ACADEMY
REVERSE ADVENT EVENT
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Reverse Advent sees us giving something, rather than receiving something, through the days of December.
This year we are asking for any donations of food and health products which we can then collect and pass onto the Jubilee Foodbank to help them over the Christmas holidays.
We will begin collecting on Monday 1st December and then for the next twelve school days.
Anything you can give, will be gratefully received and passed on but this is a suggested list of requests:

MONDAY 1st DECEMBER – DRIED POTATO (EG SMASH)
TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER – TINNED HAM
WEDNESDAY 3rd DECEMBER – TINNED POTATOES OR CARROTS
THURSDAY 4th DECEMBER – BOX OF CEREAL
FRIDAY 5th DECEMBER – JAR OF PASTA SAUCE
MONDAY 8th DECEMBER – PACKET OF BISCUITS / CRACKERS
TUESDAY 9th DECEMBER – BOTTLE OF CORDIAL / SQUASH
WEDNESDAY 10th DECEMBER – MICROWAVE RICE
THURSDAY 11th DECEMBER – CHOCOLATE BARS
FRIDAY 12th DECEMBER – SHOWER GEL / SHAMPOO
MONDAY 15th DECEMBER – TINNED SWEETCORN
TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER – TINNED FRUIT

For further details of suggested food donations, please visit the Jubilee Food Bank website at www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/shopping-list
Thank you for your kindness and support.

In The Welland Park Family
We Respect
Persevere
Achieve...with kindness



CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Some areas around the school are already starting to get a festive feel.



SCIENCE



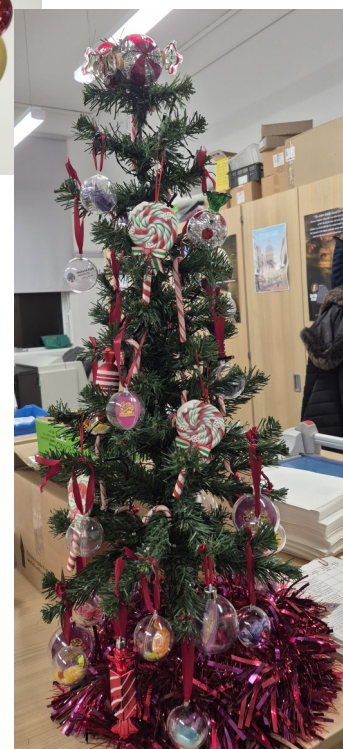
SEN



FRONT OFFICE



RECEPTION



RESOURCES



Rotary Young Musician Competition



**RIBI YOUNG
MUSICIAN** COMPETITION

Ages • Junior: up to 10 years
• Intermediate: 11-13 years
• Senior: 14-17 years

Music is the international language and Great Britain and Ireland is home to some of the most talented young musicians in the world.

Young people can share their gift of song or mastery of a musical instrument in Rotary's Young Musician competition.

Here is your opportunity to demonstrate your musical talent.

Participants will get the chance to experience performing on a public stage and receive feedback from experienced and musically qualified judges, plus it offers a great chance for future collaboration with fellow musicians.

Entrants can be either a vocalist or instrumentalist

Finalists have an opportunity to play in a theatre to an audience

Categories:

When there is more than one person in an entry, the age of the eldest person shall decide which age category they may enter.

- Solo instrumental
- Solo vocal
- Ensemble Instrumental (2-5 players)
- Ensemble Vocal (2-5 players)
- Musical Groups (6 or more players)
- Choirs (6 or more singers)

The closing date for entries to district 1070 competition is

1st January 2026

All instrumental and vocal soloists are eligible for the RGBI regional Finals



See Rotary District 1070 website for competition rules and entry forms

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/districts/page.php?PgID=938490&DistrictNo=1070>

or contact the District Organiser: Chris Shannon (RC Huntingdon Cromwell)

Email: chris_sionna@hotmail.com