



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been an incredibly positive and inspiring week here at Welland Park Academy. First and foremost, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness shown by our community in response to the Jamaican Hurricane Appeal. The donations we have received will make a real difference to those affected, and I cannot thank you enough for your support. At a time when the media often focuses on negativity, this has been a powerful reminder that compassion and empathy are still very much alive and thriving within our school and local community. It is something we should all be proud of.

This week has also been full of exciting opportunities for our students, particularly our Year 7 cohort. Many of them have enjoyed magical experiences at Harry Potter World, immersing themselves in the wonder of the stories they know so well. Others have taken part in a fascinating visit to the National Space Centre today, which will be followed by an overnight stay at school for stargazing activities. I am hoping the weather is kind and the skies clear so they can make the most of this unique experience. Seeing so many students arriving at the gate this morning with overnight bags, I had to wonder whether some were planning to stay for the whole weekend!

We were also honoured to support the Royal British Legion in Market Harborough town centre this week by helping to sell poppies. This is always such a special event, giving our students the chance to connect with the local community and understand the importance of remembrance. It is a tradition that allows them to appreciate the sacrifices made by others and to reflect on values that remain central to our heritage. On Tuesday 11th November, we will hold our own Remembrance Parade on the Astroturf. Mr Askham will lead the school, alongside our uniformed service students, in paying tribute to all those who have fought, and those who continue to fight, in conflicts around the world. This is a deeply poignant occasion and one that I am immensely proud to be part of every year.

Finally, as we look ahead to next week, Monday marks the start of mock examinations for our Year 11 students. The exam hall is now set up, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of them the very best of luck. I have seen first-hand the effort and determination they have shown in lessons, and I am confident that their hard work will pay off. These mocks are an important step in their journey, and I know they will rise to the challenge.

A message for Year 11 parents:

Mock exams can be a stressful time for students (and parents), and your support at home makes a huge difference. Encouraging good routines – such as regular revision, balanced breaks, healthy meals, and plenty of sleep, will help them feel prepared and confident. Please remind them that these exams are a learning opportunity, not just a test of knowledge. They provide valuable feedback to guide their next steps. If you have any concerns or need advice on how best to support your child during this period, please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 Pastoral Team.

Thank you once again for your continued support. It is your involvement and encouragement that help make Welland Park the vibrant and caring community it is. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards

Pete Leatherland—Principal





IT'S COMING.....

If you would like to visit a Christmas market this year, this is your chance! A coach will leave Welland Park Academy at 8.00am on Sunday 23rd November and will arrive in Manchester at around 10.30am. It will leave Manchester at 5.30pm and return to Welland Park Academy at approximately 8.00pm giving you around 7 hours to explore Manchester.

Now in their 26th year, Manchester's Christmas Markets have become legendary, drawing millions to the city centre. With over 300 stalls spread across ten locations, visitors can enjoy seasonal treats, mulled wine, and a wonderful festive atmosphere. Whether you're after handmade gifts, craft items, or delicious food, the markets cater to all tastes and ages.

Craft and gift stalls will trade from 10 am to 8 pm, while food and drink stalls will serve from 11 am to 9 pm daily.

The city will be decked out with festive lights, creating the perfect backdrop for your Christmas selfies. Look out for giant walk-through baubles, the iconic Manchester bee, and Santa Claus himself, perched high above St Peter's Square, keeping track of who's been naughty or nice.

For those who love ice skating, Skate Manchester's covered rink returns to Cathedral Gardens. Whether it's raining or snowing, you can enjoy a magical skate under twinkling lights to the sound of festive music so if you are feeling energetic you can get your skates on and whizz around the ice rink.

There are plenty of options for everyone!

The trip will take place on Sunday 23rd November 2025 and the cost is £25 per person. This is a Fundraising Group organised trip so please feel free to invite family and friends. For further details please email Mrs Burgess burgessn@wellandparkacademy.com





SPEAKOUT

SPEAKOUT

Introducing a new resource in the local area where there are lots of resources to support with mental health and wellbeing and lots of links to signposting for external support - please do take a look.

Harborough District Children and Young People's Charity (HCYC) is a locally based, locally focused children and young people's activities charity. The Speak Out Project is part of the HCYC offering and consists of this website and a magazine.

<https://speakout.org.uk/about-us/>



Welland Park Academy Lunch & Deli Menu Week commencing 10th November 25

WEEK 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Concept	Asian	Italian	British	Tex-Mex	Chip Day
Option 1	Chicken Curry	Beef Bolognese	Sausages	Cowboy Beef Chilli	Chicken Breast Nuggets
Option 2	Sweet Thai Chilli Stir-Fry	Mediterranean Vegetables	Vegetarian Sausages	BBQ Veggie Wrap	Vegan Sausage Roll
Sides	Rice Sweetcorn	Pasta Twists Carrots	Wedges Baked Beans	White Fluffy Rice Mixed 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



What is Odd Socks Day?

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week. Odd Socks Day 2025 is taking place on Monday 10th November.

Most importantly, Odd Socks Day is designed to be fun! It's an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!

There is no pressure to wear the latest fashion or to buy expensive costumes. **All you have to do to take part is wear odd socks** to your school, at work or at home, it couldn't be simpler! Odd Socks Day will take place on the first day of Anti-Bullying Week each year to help raise awareness of bullying.



Keep an eye on [Edulink](#) for details about **Children in Need** on Friday 14th November!





VAPING Newsletter

What's a vape?

Vapes are battery-operated devices that heat a liquid until it becomes a mist. It's initialised by inhalation, (sucking on the vape), the mist is then breathed in. Vapes are recommended for adult smokers only to help them quit smoking. They are not meant for long term use and they were never designed for young people.

NOVEMBER 2025



Why are young people vaping?

- **Flavors & Appeal:** Sweet, fruity flavors like bubblegum and cotton candy attract teens and mask nicotine's harshness.
- **Peer Pressure:** Vaping is trendy and promoted on social media, making it socially acceptable.
- **Lack of knowledge:** Young people don't realise the impact vaping can have on their physical/mental health.
- **Stress Relief:** Young People use vaping to cope with stress or anxiety due to the short-term calming effects of nicotine.
- **Nicotine Addiction:** Young people don't realise they're addicted to nicotine and that it has a bigger impact on children and young people's developing lungs and brains.

What are the risks?

Mental Health

Research shows that nicotine addiction can affect your mental health and that it can impact on your learning, memory, and attention. It can lead to long-lasting changes in cognition (thinking), attention and memory.

It can also lead to mood disorders like depression and anxiety.

Illegal Vapes

Illegal vapes do not follow government guidelines or UK regulations. When tested they have been found to have higher nicotine concentration levels, and contain high levels of lead, nickel and chromium. Young people are buying illegal vapes because they are cheap and can be bought in places where they are less likely to check for ID.

Risky Behaviour

Young people are buying vapes through friends of friends, so are unaware if the vapes are UK regulated. Young people are using and sharing each other's vapes. Young people that vape maybe more likely to go on to use regular cigarettes or other illegal substances.

DID YOU KNOW?



A quarter of 11 to 15 year-olds have tried vaping and nearly 1 in 10 (9%) secondary school pupils vape frequently.

source NHS England October 2024



BBC Newsround look at why are people Worried About Young People Vaping? Watch it here!



Advice & Support

There is lots of advice and support available if you're worried about a young person vaping. Click on the logo to head straight there.



childline

teen health
11-19 service



QuitReady work with young people aged 12-17 years to ensure that they have the help, support and advice they need to quit smoking or vaping. Click **here** to complete a Young person referral form.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week takes place from the 10th to 14th November. The theme for this year is "Power for Good", and it will kick off with Odd Socks Day on the first day to celebrate uniqueness.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance has lots of advice and support if you're worried about bullying. Find out more [here](#)



LET'S GET SOCIAL!





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