



April 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to The Children's Hospital School newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all the latest news across all our settings, Willow Bank School, Leicester Royal Infirmary and The Beacon Unit.

Dear Parents/Carers

As it is now officially Spring I was hoping for some lovely weather, however, from what I have seen this week there is a chance of getting sun or snow over Easter. I guess that's the joy of living in the UK.

Another busy term has flown by, and I can't believe we are almost into the summer term and examination period. When we return after Easter, there will only be 11 weeks until the summer holiday and there's so much to fit in.

It has been lovely to see the range of activities going on across all 3 of our school bases. The young people have worked so hard with their studies and also been able to participate in many extra-curricular activities including arts, music and a residential visit to London for some. Governors continue to visit regularly and have been very impressed by the quality of teaching and pupils' work that they have seen.

We have lots of building work going on at the moment at Willow Bank as we aim to become a lower-energy / carbon-neutral site. The whole roof is being replaced with new insulation, there are lots of solar panels, 2 new air-source heats pumps and LED lighting throughout. We hope the work will be completed very soon.

Our Year 11 students are working really hard at the moment as they approach exams in May and June. We have provided lots of information, revision packs and guides but please ask if there is any other information you might need. The school website has some information that might be useful including an exam timetable.

I have written to you separately regarding the updated Covid guidance as we try to get the right balance between public health and managing absence in school. Thank you for your ongoing support in this area and if there is anything you need or have any questions then just ask.

I am also aware that many household costs are increasing at the moment, and I would encourage any family finding things difficult to seek help, either externally or from Jayne Lister our family support worker who can signpost to other agencies if required.

Jayne Lister (07525 313277)
jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk

I hope you have a restful break over Easter and look forward to working with you again in the summer term.

Best wishes,

Stephen Deadman

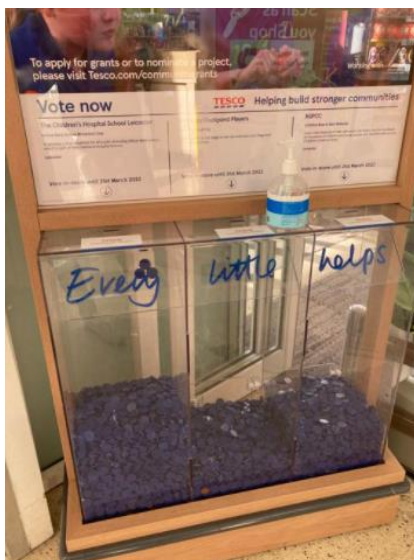


GRANTS, DONATIONS & CHARITY EVENTS

TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

We are awaiting the result of the Tesco Community Grants Scheme and will update you when we hear.

It was looking promising at the start of March at Tesco South Wigston.



RACE FOR LIFE

Just a reminder that Willow Bank School is holding its own Race for Life for Cancer Research on Friday 29th April.

The page for donation is:

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/willow-bank-school>



GROUNDWORK UK GRANT



We wanted to share with you a photo of some goodies purchased by the LRI out of the Groundwork UK grant, which was received by The Children's Hospital School some time ago.

RED NOSE DAY



Willow Bank School raised £79 for Comic Relief. The money was raised through sales of red noses and 'wear something red for Red Nose Day', which was on 18th March.

SPRING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

This term The Beacon CAMHS Unit has been raising money to be able to purchase some sensory toys for the young people on the ward. We have been overwhelmed with donations and our 'Easter Raffle' will be drawn on 6th April 2022. The prizes are fantastic, and we would like to thank all who have donated for their support!



John Lewis kindly donated a large amount of chocolate towards the fundraising at The Beacon CAMHS Unit.



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MORE GRANTS, DONATIONS & CHARITY EVENTS

WILLOW BANK SCHOOL SENSORY ROOM

Thanks to a grant donated by NMBS Ltd (HiKOKI Power Tools UK Ltd), Willow Bank School has managed to furnish a new sensory room. We wanted to share the below pictures with you.



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK – 7th FEBRUARY TO 11th FEBRUARY 2022

On Wednesday 9th February HOET (Heart of England Training Ltd) came into Willow Bank School to deliver a session on apprenticeships. They provided information to students about hair, beauty, and barbering apprenticeships, as well as other apprenticeships available by the training provider. Students got to participate in activities and engaged wonderfully with the session Leaders.



Hagrid

PANCAKE DAY TUESDAY 1st MARCH

Some students at Willow Bank School were having great fun making pancakes on Pancake Day during their intervention slots. They had a go at tossing the pancakes and chose from a variety of toppings to take home.



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MORE NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 7th – 11th MARCH

For National Careers Week, Leicestershire Cares organised an exciting employability event at Willow Bank School on Monday 7th March 2022. Business volunteers spoke to students about their career journeys and gave mock interviews to year 10 and year 11 students. These activities helped the students to practice their interview techniques, gain employability skills and confidence. It also gave them a greater understanding of the world of work. We are so proud with how well all the students did during their mock interviews. Well done all!



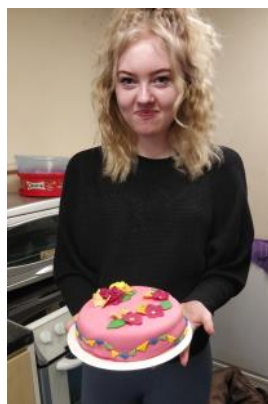
Speedy Speaker



Mock interviews

MOTHERS DAY BAKING

Students at Willow Bank School had fun making cakes for Mother's Day.



YEAR 11 REVISION PACKS

These lovely bright revision packs were handed out to Year 11 in March.

All part of supporting our students.



PARENT MEETING DATES

The upcoming Parent Meeting dates are as follows:

25th April @ 10:15-11am

Internet Safety with Mel Madlani, Teacher of Computing

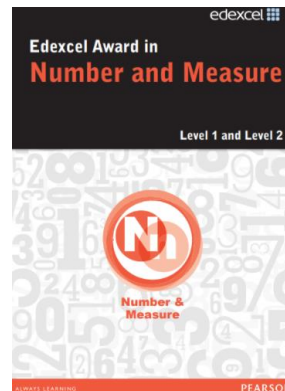
Micki Handford
Pastoral Manager

MATHS NEWS

Congratulations to a hugely talented mathematician at Willow Bank School (you know who you are), awarded a Silver Certificate in the UKNT Intermediate Challenge.



Congratulations to two of our Year 11s who have passed their Level 1 Number and Measure Maths qualification



BUILDING WORK

Lots of building work going on at Willow Bank School. These 38 solar PV units will generate 12,480 kwh per annum, save 2.91 tonnes of CO2 which is equivalent of planting 134 tree.



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EASTER EGG-CITEMENT

Students at The Beacon have been enjoying making their own Easter tree this half term, with crochet, Papier-mâché and modelling clay being used to celebrate the upcoming festival!



WHIPPING UP A SNOWSTORM

Our Artist in Residence, Sian, has been whipping up a storm with these beautiful snowglobes! Sian has also been creating some 2D and 3D sculptures! The students had lots of fun modelling their sculptures on some of team!



CELEBRATING READING

Our thanks go to 'Read for Good' for their wonderful donation of a wide variety of reading books which arrived in school last week! We are delighted to be able to gift all of our students a reading book this half term! We hope to be able to continue this initiative for our future students too!

With the help of 'Read for Good', we also plan to have a Storyteller visit us later in the term! Keep your eyes peeled for future stories!



MOTHER'S DAY GREETINGS

Students enjoyed creating their very own Mother's Day cards, using digital photography to create some beautiful greetings cards!



Family Thrive for Parents and Carers

A six-week course to introduce you to the fundamentals of Thrive and how it works in practice

Come on this course to find out about:

- the Thrive Approach
- how our brains develop
- how your right brain talks to your left brain!
- why play and creativity are so important to you and your child
- how to support your child at times of change and difficulty
- everyday trigger times and how to keep calm
- how to be a behaviour detective.



Where and when:

4, 11, 18 May & 8, 15, 22 June

Wednesday's 1:45-3:00pm @ Willow Bank School

Simmins Crescent, Leicester, LE29AH

Learn about the amazing growth of your child's brain through childhood and help support their emotional development.

To book your place or find out more:

The course is run by a Thrive-approved course leader who is an experienced licensed practitioner. It is suitable for you if your child attends a setting that embraces a whole setting approach to Thrive. To book your place or to find out more, please contact:

Micki Handford, Pastoral Manager

mhandford@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk or ring 01162298137

To find out more about Thrive and other courses on offer, please visit:
www.thriveapproach.co.uk



SPRING GOVERNOR NEWS

Welcome to the Spring Term update from the Governing Body. It has been a busy term across the school. It has been wonderful to hear about some of the Willow Bank students recently enjoying their trip to London, including to the Houses of Parliament and meeting local MP Jonathan Ashworth.

One of our Governors, Chris, was delighted to be able to begin coming back into Willow Bank regularly to volunteer her support and green fingers to the school garden. Chris can also turn her hand to arts and crafts, as was required on the afternoon when the British weather prevented the staff and students from venturing out!!



The first 'Getting to Know' Governor visits took place at Willow Bank and The Beacon this term. This allowed Governors to meet students and staff and gain a better understanding of the day to day experiences at each base. It was a privilege to see the school in action.

Governors have continued to carry out monitoring visits centred around:

- Safeguarding
- Pupil Premium
- Teaching and Learning
- SEND

Monitoring

Some of the key areas looked at this term included:

- The impact of therapeutic interventions in the school such as Thrive and Art Therapy.
- Presentation from Claire Mooney, Assistant to Willow Bank, on Citizenship and the role of the school council within the school.
- A review of the findings of the work scrutiny carried out across the school bases to look at the quality of feedback for students.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Spring term was discussed, including attendance data and monitoring and pupil voice survey outcomes. In addition there were updates from all of the Heads of School.
- Staff wellbeing, including outcomes from the staff surveys, wellbeing charter and policies related to wellbeing.
- Management Accounts discussed and scrutinised by the Finance Committee.

Meet the Governor

Lynne is currently the Vice-Chair of the Governing Body, as well as a member of the Finance, Personnel and Premises Committee.

She joined us in September 2019 and became Vice Chair in September 2021.

Lynne is the link Governor for Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Anti Bullying. As part of this role Lynne meets termly with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and School Business Manager to monitor closely these areas of the school.

Lynne brings a background in Human Resources across a number of industries including adult social care, as well as HR consultancy in recent years. Throughout her career she has been involved in a number of educational initiatives including Right to Read.

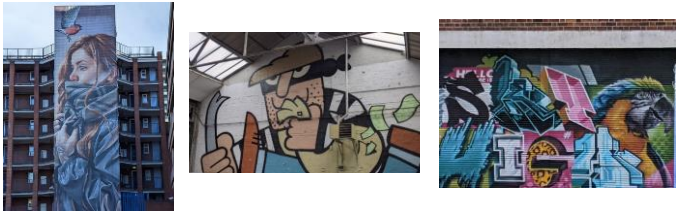
Lynne is also Vice Chair with another secondary school within the city.



TRIPS

STREET ART TRIP

On 24th February some students from Willow Bank School went on a street art walk trip, see some pictures below.



UPCOMING TRIP – VUE CINEMA



Willow Bank School students are going to Vue Cinema on Thursday 7th April to see Dog.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Your children may be eligible for free school meals if you receive:

- > income support
- > income-based jobseekers allowance
- > income-related employment and support allowance
- > national asylum seeker support
- > child tax credit (providing you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- > the guaranteed element of state pension credit
- > working tax credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit

Applying could also help your school get extra funding through the Government's Pupil Premium scheme.

Visit: <https://freeschoolmeals.leicester.gov.uk>
[Free School Meals | Leicestershire County Council](#)

TERM DATES 2021-22

Summer Term 2022

Start of term for pupils: Monday 25th Apr 2022
 Bank holiday: Monday 2nd May 2022
 Half term holiday: 30th May 2022 to 3rd June 2022
 Last day of summer term: Friday 8th July 2022

TERM DATES 2022-23

Autumn Term 2022

Start of term for pupils: Tuesday 30th August 2022
 Half term holiday: 17th October to 21st October 2022
 Last day of Autumn term: Friday 16th December 2022
 Christmas Holiday: 19th December to 2nd January 2023

Spring Term 2023

Start of term for pupils: Tuesday 3rd January 2023
 Half term holiday: 20th February to 24th February 2023
 Last day of Spring term: Friday 31st March 2023
 Easter Holiday: 3rd April to 14th April 2023

Summer Term 2023

Start of term for pupils: Monday 17th April 2023
 May Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May 2023
 Half term holiday: 29th May to 2nd June 2023
 Last day of Summer term: Friday 14th July 2023



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