



Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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July 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 we reach the end of the summer term, I want to pay tribute to everyone in our school community who have worked together through another challenging year. When I look back, it seems an age since Covid took its grip again in spring, but I am very proud of everyone for being so resilient and getting through that tough time to where we are now. As I write, our first ever Duke of Edinburgh expedition is underway with four of our Year 11 students.

In reflecting on the past 12 months, it is uplifting to see how much progress our young people have made with the support of staff, families and the wider community. Our Year 11 students had a wonderful send off last week and we look forward to seeing them in August when they receive their exam results. Their hard work and dedication to achieve the very best will allow them to move on successfully into further study or employment.

In September the school is opening a new provision, The Magpie Learning Centre, which will expand the support we can give to children in the community. This new building is just over the road from Willow Bank and staff will work across each base to ensure the same high standards are met. The Magpie Learning Centre was previously a local youth club that closed many years ago but has now been renovated with the support of the Local Authority. It will house our Year 7-9 students, with Year 10 & 11 students remaining at Willow Bank. There will also be a small 2-day primary provision for Year 5 & 6 children.

Everyone is now looking forward to a well-earned rest over the summer, but I am so grateful for everyone's hard work and dedication that has made this year such a productive one.

I do hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and I look forward to working alongside you all again next year.

Best wishes

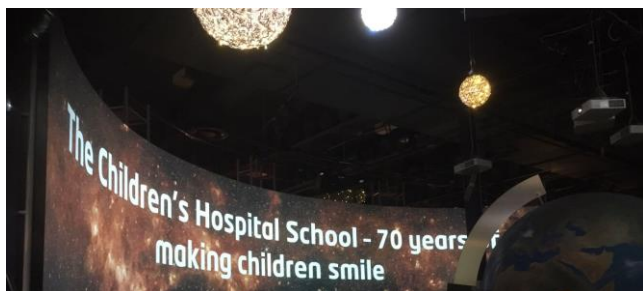
Stephen Deadman



Congratulations to Leicester Tigers winning the Gallagher Premiership title after they beat Saracens 15-12 in the final at Twickenham.



APPROVED CHARITY TRUST



We would like to share the news with you that The Children's Hospital School has been approved as a charity trust by Charity Commission.

This is with thanks to the hard work of our Business Manager and Trustees to make this happen.

We hope this will further support us in achieving our ambition to help more children with medical needs.



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT

ANTI-BULLYING QUALITY MARK



We were very pleased to receive our anti-bullying quality mark, bronze award. This shows recognition of everything we do across the school to support our young people.



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LEAVERS' DAY, FRIDAY 24th JUNE

It is always a bittersweet occasion – a celebration of all of our year 11s' achievements mixed with a tinge of sadness as it is also the day we say goodbye.

We were able to hold the assembly inside this year and it was really lovely to welcome so many parents and families to share in acknowledging all that our truly exceptional year 11s have accomplished over the past couple of years.

Once everyone had wiped their eyes after the emotions of Mr Gibson's end of year video, it was time to get outside and enjoy the various inflatables and activities we had dotted around the school. From the rodeo bull in the English room to the inflatable slide and bungee run outside, a great time was had by all. I have to say that some took things more seriously than others and displayed their rather competitive natures!

One of the most popular activities was the photo booth and there were some highly amusing images being shown around – with full use made of the different props provided! The frivolities of the photo booth were heavily influenced by the amount of sugar in the room – popcorn, candy floss and slushies!

Thanks to Mr Stafford and Mr Jeffcote, the barbecue went off without a hitch and was ably supported by Mr Sowman with his cocktail umbrellas, fruit slices and expertly designed and mixed mocktails! Of course, special thanks must go to Nicky, our wonderful chef, who made all the accompaniments as well as absolutely delicious cheesecakes and tiramisu.

Once the food had been devoured and the inflatables had worn everyone out, it was time for the Willow Bank Oscars, brilliantly presented by Mr Pepper. I'm sure everyone in the locality could hear the drum rolls as each category winner was announced! We hope our leavers enjoyed their gifts and statuettes.

Finally, our leavers' day would not be complete without the distribution and signing of our yearbook. Thank you once again to Charlie for collating our memories of the past year and to Mr Gibson for a funny, and not at all embarrassing, front cover!



MORE NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

JUBILEE TREATS



Celebrations were in full swing at Willow Bank School for the Jubilee, with a wonderful trifle made by Andrea and a vegan union cake.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TALLY



We celebrated Tally's 1st birthday in June. Now a fully established member of the team!

DECARBONISATION

The plantroom container arrived on site at Willow Bank School to be connected to our new air source heat pumps. A huge thanks to Eco Schools LCC and J Tomlinson Ltd.



All now connected and another step closer to carbon neutrality



SOLAR PANELS



An additional 96 solar panels are getting installed at Willow Bank School shortly. That takes us up to 45,000 kwh, which is almost what we use on an annual basis at the moment. Grateful for the help we have received so this can become a reality.



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NEWS FROM THE BEACON

GETTING OUR PAINT ON!



Students have been practising their painting skills and experimenting with acetates, cavasses, and acrylics!

Thanks, as always, to Sian Watson-Taylor, our resident artist and Attenborough arts for your constant inspiration!

VISITING STORY-TELLER



Our students have been enjoying sessions this term from our visiting storyteller, Wilf Mertens. Wilf is an award-winning storyteller, provided through the Read for Good Hospital Programme, to bring stories to life through workshops and performance to our students at The Beacon.

YOUNG WRITERS – TWISTED TALES



Our students have been enjoying recreating their favourite classic tales and giving them a twist! Story cubes have been used to help generate ideas and inspiration! Hopefully, we will be able to enter some of their creative tales into the Young Writer's Twisted Tales Mini Saga competition in the coming weeks!



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Summer Governor News

Welcome to the Summer Term update from the Governing Body. Congratulations to all Year 11 students who have completed their examinations over the last few weeks and very best wishes for the future as they move onto their next steps in education.

Governors have continued to visit the school regularly this term and carried out monitoring visits centred around:

- Safeguarding
- Teaching and Learning at Willow Bank
- Wellbeing
- Health and Safety

Another 'Getting to Know' Governor visit took place with the team at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. It provided an opportunity to ask lots of questions whilst walking around the wards. It was great to speak to some students and their parents about how they felt about school in hospital.



A number of Governors have also refreshed their Safeguarding training using an external training provider, and in addition during the final Full Governing Body meeting of the year, a safeguarding review was presented by James Stafford, Assistant Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Monitoring

Some of the key areas looked at this term included:

- The outcomes of a Maths Department Peer Review and next steps planned.
- Presentation from Ciaran Danaher on Humanities and Religious Education.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Summer term was discussed, including updates on the building works at Willow Bank, reports from the Heads of School and the outcomes of lesson observations which took place.
- A report on the impact of the Year 11 Transition Programme undertaken in the Autumn Term.
- Management Accounts discussed and scrutinised by the Finance Committee, including approving the school budget for 2022 – 2023.
- A review of the School Improvement Plan.

What is the role of the Governing Body?

The Governing Body at The Children's Hospital School consists of 12 members, comprising the headteacher, staff governor, foundation and LA governors, parent governors and co-opted governors.

Governors have three key objectives:

- Ensure clarity of the vision, ethos and strategic direction
- Hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its students, and the performance management of staff
- Oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Questioning, challenge and support is at the core of this.

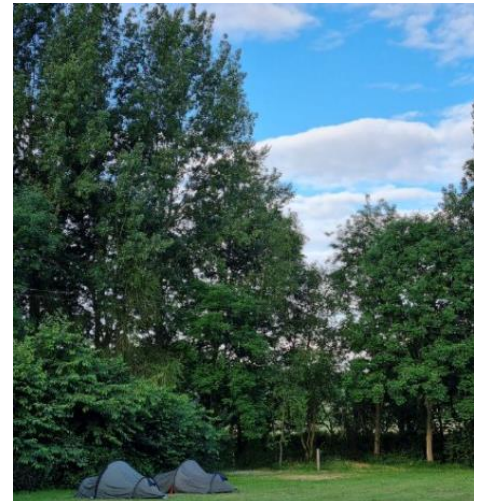


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For the first time we had a group of students completing their DofE bronze award.

Was also great to receive recognition of their efforts for volunteering.



SUMMER PROGRAMME

Project Pony Summer programme

Improve your wellbeing, gain skills and confidence and make new friends!

What is it?

Project Pony is a summer project for young people who need help with their mental health and wellbeing.

Through working with horses, you will learn about your own body's response to stress and how to deal with this. You will also gain lots of skills and get to think about your future career, as well as make new friends!

Project Pony is delivered by The Way of the Horse and Leicestershire Cares.

When is it?

10am to 12pm
Every Friday of the summer holidays
(15th July to 19th August)

Where is it?

The Way of the Horse
Stemborough Lane
Leire
Lutterworth
LE17 5EY

How do I join?

For more information and to sign up, contact:

Charlotte Robey-Turner
Phone: 07793 443 973
Email: charlottert@leicestershirecares.co.uk



TRIPS UPDATE

It has been great to get school trips back up and running this academic year. There have been a few that have taken place over the last month:

SOFT TOUCH ARTS

Some of the KS3 students went on a visit to Soft Touch Arts on New Walk on the afternoons of 10th June and 17th June.

DRAYTON MANOR

Staff and students had a fantastic day out at Drayton Manor Theme Park on 27th June.

YHA EDALE

A group of staff and students went to Edale in Derbyshire for a 3-day residential on 1st July to 3rd July.



HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT GRANT

This grant could possibly help parents be awarded some money towards their utility bills, and an e-voucher for food. Jayne Lister is offering support to parents to apply for this grant in both the City and County. If you are interested please email your name, child's initials and family email address to jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk. Please state on your email that your child attends The Children's Hospital School.

SUMMER CONTACTS SHOULD YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

Jayne Lister - Family Support Worker
Summer holidays (Monday and Tuesday only)
Jayne.lister@leicester.gov.uk
07525 313277
Not available 25th July to 8th August

James Stafford
Assistant Head Teacher
The Children's Hospital School

Early Help and Social Care
Leicester City Council – 0116 4541004

Leicestershire County Council – 0116 3050005

Rutland County Council – 01572 758407

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 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

LAST DAY OF TERM REMINDER

Willow Bank School closes to students at 12.40pm on Friday 8th July 2022.

HAPPY
SUMMER



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