



# Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'

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## July 2023 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, Magpie Learning Centre, Leicester Royal Infirmary and The Beacon Unit.

Dear Parents / Carers,

What a fantastic year we've had at the school. It is so nice to reflect on the last 12 months and see how much has been achieved by our young people with the support of our wonderful staff. I have the privilege of seeing what goes on at each of our four school bases and I always look forward to my visits. We are fortunate to have such a talented bunch of staff who work tirelessly to make things better for our children. On behalf of the children and families I would like to thank them for their dedication.

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.

It has been one year since we opened the Magpie Learning Centre, an extension of the school's provision. I have seen this evolve and develop into a welcoming and thriving part of the school. It has meant we've been able to offer short-term intervention placements to support even more young people.

The Leicester Royal Infirmary classroom has been transformed by the staff as more children access the learning space. At the Beacon, the arts have been developed, including the addition of the 'Calm Table'. At Willow Bank and The Magpie, the outdoor learning spaces are being used extensively following improvements and the addition of lots of plants.

The school received an excellent peer review report when Challenge Partners visited a few months back. It reflected the high standards of education and care given to all our young people and recognised our work around mental health support. We are excited that representatives from the Department for Education have asked to visit the school in September to see all the great work we do.

In September we have two new members of staff starting with us – Emma Henson based at the Magpie and Claire Fatkin based at the two hospitals. Sadly, Danny Riley, Anila Patel, Amy Thorpe and Karen Pattison will all be leaving us at the end of term. Anila has been at the school for 7 years and Amy for over 10! Karen Pattison has been with us since January 2017, teaching science at the Magpie, Willow Bank and in homes. Karen is retiring following a long career in education where she has supported many children in many schools. She has been a first-class teacher and tutor, and I know she will be missed by all of us but we wish her a very happy retirement.

We also say goodbye to our chair of governors, Marie Bradley, who has been at the school for over 7 years and is a great advocate of everything the school aims to achieve. She has given me a great deal of support and regularly visited every school site. We wish her the very best and send her thanks for everything.

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

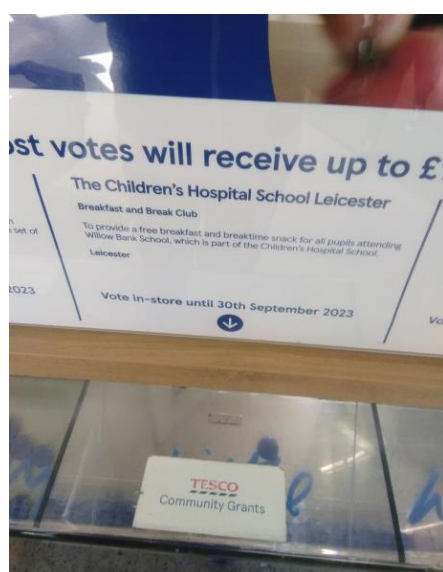


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### TESCO COMMUNITY GRANT IN-STORE VOTE

We are delighted to let you know that our application to the Tesco Community Grants Scheme has been successful. Please vote for our Breakfast and Break Club, voting is available until the end of September 2023 in the following stores:

Aylestone Lane Express	LE18 1BD
South Wigston	LE18 4SE
Narborough Express	LE19 3WY
Aberdale Rd Express	LE2 6GB
Saffron Express	LE2 6UG
Lutterworth Express	LE2 8PH
Rowley Fields Express	LE3 2FU
Leicester Forest East Express	LE3 3JT
Evington	LE5 4WE
Countesthorpe Express	LE8 5RN



### THE AWARD SCHEME DofE GRANT

Thanks to the funding from The Award Scheme lots more kit has been purchased for students.



### LEAVERS' CELEBRATION

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June was a day of mixed emotions for students and staff as we said goodbye to our year 11s.

Leavers' assembly is always a celebration, a chance to formally recognise all of our young people for the many brilliant things they have done in school over the year. It also gives staff the opportunity to highlight the idiosyncrasies of our young people; the little unique qualities that, when put together, ensure Willow Bank is a well-rounded community that nurtures creativity and individuality.

After the formalities, and emotions, of the morning, Willow Bank descended into organised chaos that was fuelled by popcorn, candy floss and slushies! A special shout out to Nicky for providing an amazing BBQ (and pre-cooking the meat so that Oli and Mr Stafford didn't poison anyone) and to Mr Sowman for running another exceptional Sowman's Saloon!

With the exertions of the inflatables out of the way, it was time to celebrate (less formally) our year 11s in the Willow Bank Oscars. We hope they all enjoyed their certificates, statuettes and gifts.

Then came the bittersweet part where we bade them all farewell, with many tears, knowing that we were seeing them off into the wider world to make a real difference!

We wish our year 11s the very best and know that they are going to contribute brilliantly to society; because that is what they have done at Willow Bank.

Good luck!



### YEAR 10 VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY

On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Gateway College delivered a virtual assembly to our year 10 students. As the students are beginning to think about their post 16 options, this was a great opportunity for them to see what a college has to offer.

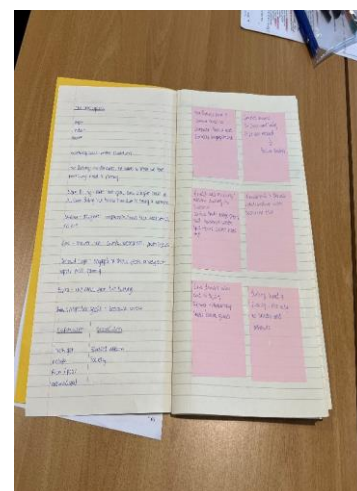
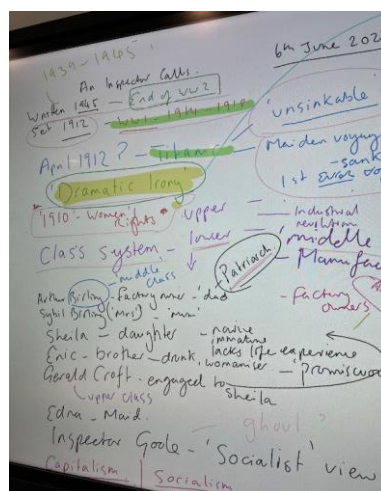


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## NEWS FROM THE BEACON

### ENGLISH – AN INSPECTOR CALLS

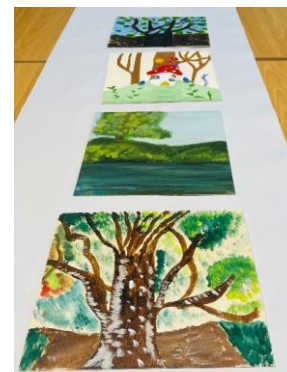
We have had an extremely productive month at the Beacon. In English we have been looking at *An Inspector Calls* where we have been exploring characters, themes and the context of the play. The young people used the interactive whiteboard and post it notes to gather ideas and to record key information.



### THE CALM TABLE

The Calm Table has proved to be an effective resource in our classroom. It incorporates the environment as the third teacher and has developed into a space where our young people can self soothe, whilst having access to a variety of mixed media to create individual art pieces.

#### Tree Theme



### RESIDENT SENSORY ATELIER

Our resident sensory atelier artist has been working with our young people this half term, in collaboration with Leicester University. They have been exploring science alongside art by creating lava lamps, slime and sculptures made from Plaster of Paris.



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### SUMMER THEME

Our students have been very busy learning about our half term theme on Summer. They have enjoyed listening to stories, producing super poems, creating artwork, solving maths problems and conducting science experiments. Their work has contributed to our Summer display.



### WILF THE STORYTELLER

It was a pleasure to welcome Wilf the Storyteller back from Read for Good. He visited many of our students on the wards ranging from 3 -15 years. He recommended books and told fabulous stories. We had such a positive response from parents, children and ward staff.

What an  
absolutely lovely  
thing to do.

It's the  
story  
man!

She really enjoyed  
that, thank you. It  
really cheered her

I love books – I  
really can't  
choose.

### SINGING HANDS

Lisa enjoyed her visit to Great Ormond Street Hospital this half term observing the EYFS provision. One of the highlights from the visit alongside observing some fantastic learning was meeting Tracy Upton from Singing Hands. Tracy's Makaton videos are a wonderful resource for us at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.



### COSBY YARN BOMB

The students at the LRI have been busy taking part in A Million Dreams project for the Cosby Yarn Bomb. They have decorated a hoop with coloured yarn by wrapping, weaving, hanging pom poms and adding tassels. The village of Cosby will be decorated from 11<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August.



The Magpie is drawing to the end of its first academic year, and what a success it's been! To celebrate one of our lovely hospital school students transferring back to their home school, we took the students to the park and treated them to an ice cream.

### ATELIER LABS

With huge thanks to Atelier Labs through the Attenborough Arts Centre, the students had some sessions led by Sian and some University Chemistry students. In these sessions they were exploring science through the means of art, which did mean a lot of mess was made in the process! They did experiments with baking soda and vinegar, but chucked in loads of paint and glitter for good measure! Along with other exciting experiments with Skittles and milk, they decorated tote bags with beetroot and turmeric. The stand out one however, was filling old camera film canisters with paint and alkali tablets. After leaving to sit for a while they went flying into the air with a satisfying "POP".



### INTERVENTION GROUPS

The Magpie Intervention Groups have worked incredibly hard this term and both groups (Tigers and Foxes) have produced some amazing work!

From their collaborative solar system display to their fantastic POP art designs inspired by the famous artist Roy Lichtenstein, all have produced some striking work to brighten up the Magpie walls!

All students have also pushed themselves to develop important skills that they will be able take back to their home schools too. Their group discussions on human rights and important topics such as modern-day slavery will hopefully, build confidence and help to develop their voice as they move towards GCSEs.

The practical skills developed while making torches, desk fans and delicious Pizzas in D&T will also help support their problem-solving skills later on too. But more importantly, most students have taken the opportunity with us to develop daily routines and relationships that will support their progress moving forwards.

Well done and good luck to all students.





### GROW YOUR OWN GRUB

This term at the Magpie Learning Centre, we have been finishing off our wonderful 'Meal barrow' to enter in the 'Grow your own grub' Leicester schools competition. Have a look at the before and after photos...can you identify any of the veg growing???

After lots of hard work making it look nice and with KS3 (and Magpie staff's) amazing artistic skills, the 'grow your own grub' team then picked up our amazing wheel barrow to put on display at the celebration event held at Abbey Pumping Station on Saturday 1 July. Fingers crossed for first prize!!!!



### TRIPS UPDATE

#### DRAYTON MANOR - 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

Willow Bank School students visited Drayton Manor. The day was all about promoting positive relationships and feelings of health and happiness. It was an opportunity for the students to relax and celebrate a successful year before parting ways for the summer holidays.



#### CASTLETON – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023

Willow Bank School Year 10 students went on a residential trip to Castleton. This visit was organised by the Youth Hostel Association, an organisation that specialises in offering students the opportunity to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Students took part in a variety of activities focussing on teamwork and confidence building.



#### MARKET HARBOROUGH MUSEUM – 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

Our KS3 History class were able to take part in a successful visit to Harborough Museum to see the objects from the Hallaton Hoard. After learning about Roman Leicester this year, it was an opportunity for the students to see the ancient Roman and British objects on display and to find out lots of information about ancient societies in Leicestershire. We also spent time looking at the vast quantity of other interesting artefacts there- everything from fossilised mastodon teeth to ventriloquists puppets- even a cursed pair of shoes!



#### TWYXCROSS ZOO – 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

KS3 and Year 10 had a wonderful day at Twycross Zoo, discussing animal adaptations and learning about conservation projects around the world and having so much fun watching the animals do their thing. The students worked well together, promoting positive relationships and the general feeling from the trip was one of happiness. It was also a great opportunity for both Willow Bank and Magpie students to come together, relax together and celebrate the end of year!



#### FRUIT PICKING – 20<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023

AQA cooking students went fruit picking in Whetstone. We dodged the thunderstorms and rain and went to Whetstone Pastures Farm to pick Strawberries and meet the farm's goat and chickens.

We had a really fun afternoon and everyone came back with lots of strawberries, we even made some jam to use in school and for the Afternoon Tea we are planning at the end of term.



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.

This term we were delighted to receive the Challenge Partners Quality Assurance Review Report which judged the school as 'Leading' in all areas, and accredited the school's work on mental health as an 'Area of Excellence'.

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

- Safeguarding
- Literacy at The Beacon
- Pupil Premium
- Health and Safety
- Digital Literacy
- SEND

Visits provide the opportunity to monitor key areas of the school, meet staff and students and bring into context information and reports shared at meetings.

Governors have also updated their Prevent training this term.

### Monitoring

Some of the key areas looked at this term included:

- Presentation from Ren Collard (Lead Teacher of Science), focusing on the curriculum, teaching and learning and ways in which students are encouraged to engage with science in the wider world.
- SEND/LAC presentation from Stewart Scragg (SENCO) focusing on the changing profile of SEN across the school, improvements and developments made and planned next steps.
- Presentation from Kathryn Smith (School Leader) on the way in which interventions are being used in the timetable to support the curriculum, including the impact this is having on progress.
- The Headteacher's Report from the Summer term was discussed updates from each Base, an overview of the outcomes from the observation snapshot and an update on transition data and destinations for 2022 leavers
- A final update on the School Improvement Plan, including the progress made towards the school's objectives.
- Management Accounts discussed and scrutinised by the Finance Committee, including approval of the School Budget 23-24.

### **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.

***And finally, we wish Marie Bradley, Chair of Governors, very best wishes as she retires at the end of the year. Marie has been a Governor at CHS for the last 7 years, and Chair since June 2019. Thank you Marie for all your support and hard work.***



### ONLINE SAFETY

Ensuring children are safe online requires continuous conversations, vigilance and keeping up to date with changes.

Working as a family TEAM can ensure your child is safer online. Follow the steps below:

**Talk** - Chat to your child about their online world such as discussing the apps, social networker and website your child uses.

**Explore** - Explore and understand the apps, games and sites your child uses and get to know this online world better.

**Agree** - Make sure you agree common ground rules about boundaries with the whole family such as which website and apps are ok to use, why and time they are allowed online and what they are allowed to do.

**Manage** - Make use of the technology. Adapt privacy setting and use parental controls where necessary.



### PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023

COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

**ASDA**  
Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

**TESCO**  
Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023

**SAINSBURYS CAFES**  
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

**BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**  
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

**THE REAL GREEK**  
Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

**TABLE TABLE**  
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

**TRAVELODGE**  
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

**HUNGRY HORSE**  
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

**PREMIER INN**  
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

**SIZZLING PUBS**  
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

**IKEA**  
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

**MORRISONS**  
Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.

**GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**  
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

**PRETO**  
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

**BILLS**  
2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July – Friday 1st Sept 2023

**BELLA ITALIA**  
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

**WHITBREAD INNS**  
Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

**SA BRAINS PUBS**  
Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

**FUTURE INNS**  
Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

**PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**  
Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

**YO! SUSHI**  
From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

**TO BE CONFIRMED...**  
M&S and Farmhouse Inns

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL





## MORE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

### 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](#)

### CONTACTS SHOULD YOU NEED ASSISTANCE

Urgent contacts for Early Help and Prevention and Children's Social Care

Leicester City Council – 0116 4541004

Leicestershire County Council – 0116 3050005

Rutland County Council – 01572 758407

### GCSE RESULTS DAY

GCSE results day will take place on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August, 9am to 10am at Willow Bank School reception.

### 2023-24 TERM DATES

#### Term No 1: 32 days (6 weeks 2 days)

Schools Open	Wednesday 30 August 2023
Schools Close	Thursday 12 October 2023
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Friday 13 October 2023
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 16 October 2023 to Friday 20 October 2023

#### Term No 2: 44 days (8 weeks 4 days)

Schools Open	Monday 23 October 2023
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Friday 1 December 2023
Schools Close	Friday 22 December 2023
Christmas Holiday	Monday 25 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024

#### Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 8 January 2024
Schools Close	Friday 16 February 2024
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 19 February 2024 to Friday 23 February 2024

#### Term No 4: 20 days (4 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 26 February 2024
Schools Close	Friday 22 March 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024

#### Term No 5: 34 days (6 weeks 4 days)

Schools Open	Monday 8 April 2024
Bank Holiday (school closed)	Monday 6 May 2024
Schools Close	Friday 24 May 2024
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 27 May 2024 to Friday 31 May 2024

#### Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)

Schools Open	Monday 3 June 2024
Schools Close	Friday 12 July 2024
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 15 July 2024

### LAST DAY OF TERM REMINDER

Willow Bank School and Magpie Learning Centre close to students at 12.50pm on Friday 14th July 2023.

HAPPY  
SUMMER



**Children's Hospital School**