

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



Headteacher: Mr S Deadman

Willow Bank School

Simmins Crescent

Leicester

LE2 9AH

February 2024 Newsletter

Tel: 0116 2298137

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

I hope you are all keeping well at this time. It has been a very busy start to 2024, with more young people coming into the school and plenty of activities being organised in each of the school bases. A huge thanks to all those staff who have organised activities, including those who accompanied some of our students to London on a residential visit last week.

Our Year 11 students are working hard as they start to think about summer exams and planning for post-16 studies. Further information to support independent study can be found on the school website and will also be provided by teachers. We hope this is useful to students and parents, but any questions or concerns then please ask.

The school continues to grow which brings its own challenges such as additional building work across the school sites. We hope that by Easter, two new classrooms will have been installed at Willow Bank with plans for additional teaching spaces later in the year. We are grateful to the Local Authority for their support and to students for their patience.

We've had a couple of lovely news articles published about the school recently following visits from journalists. One for Schools Week and one for the UHL staff newsletter. On a national level we have presented about our school to audiences including Local Authority, Health and Department for Education colleagues. We have a great provision here in Leicester that others are always keen to learn from!

Thanks to funding we've received, there are arts and music projects taking place now or planned for next term across our sites. We have also been able to invest in some assistive technology resources at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The days are getting longer, and I hope temperatures will start to rise soon. Have a restful half-term and I look forward to seeing everyone back safely on Monday 26th February.

Best Wishes

Stephen Deadman



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Elf on the Shelf

During December we had a very special delivery – our very own Elf arrived to cause mischief in the classroom! From swinging on the glitter ball to taking a well-earned rest at the Elf Spa! We hope he returns next year!



Big Garden Birdwatch

In January, Children at the LRI took part in lots of bird themed activities. As it's quite difficult to see different birds out of the hospital window, we brought the birds to the bedside through watching video clips and researching different birds on the internet. Our students loved creating masks and making a model of a bird out of Modroc.



Snow Way!

We haven't seen any snow yet, but that doesn't stop us making snowmen at the LRI! Some of our students have also really enjoyed experimenting with tones of colour to create some stunning winter art. Our Winter display is looking fabulous!



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL



We are immensely grateful and proud of all our staff and all that they achieved for students at the Children's Hospital School over the past 75 years! Each term we recognise staff's long service and unwavering support to our school community. At the start of this term Mrs Davies was recognised for 25 years of dedication and commitment to our school. Thank you for all that you have done!

Stephen Deadman
Headteacher



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

Pizza Express Trip

On Tuesday 9th January students went on a trip to Pizza Express for a workplace visit. The students got to learn about restaurant life and each made a delicious pizza. The trip was enjoyed by both staff and students.



Cooking

Cooking students made some delicious heart jammy dodger shortbread biscuits for their Valentines themed week baking sessions. This gained the students a AQA unit, which they are working towards each week.



National Apprenticeship Week

On Thursday 8th February students were treated to a virtual assembly from 3 employers as part of National Apprenticeship week, organised through our Enterprise Network Advisor Vicky Gutteridge. Each employer talked about their experiences of apprenticeships and the careers they are in.

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Day

At break time on Pancake Day students and staff showed their competitive streak at Willow Bank School in a competition to see how many flips they could do on a pancake in 30 seconds. One of our Year 10 students started the score board of 35 flips being quickly overtaken by one of our Year 11 students with 38 before posing a second challenge and taking the lead at 42 flips! Well done to all the students who took part.

Chinese New Year

Students had an opportunity to share in the city's Chinese New Year celebrations last week by having a go at lion dance drumming and traditional dragon dancing.



Burns Night

The school celebrated Burns Night on Thursday 25th January with a haggis, neeps and tatties lunch (real and veggie). Along with some words from Robbie Burns' famous Selkirk Grace:

Some hae meat and canna eat

And some wad eat that want it

But we hae meat and we can eat

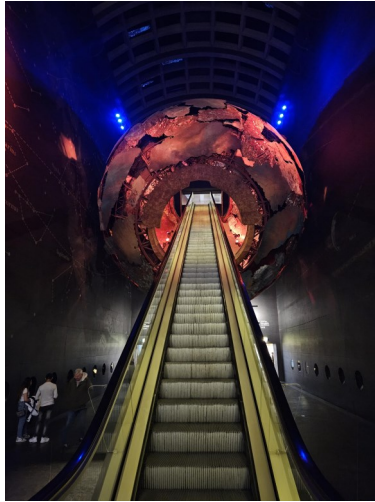
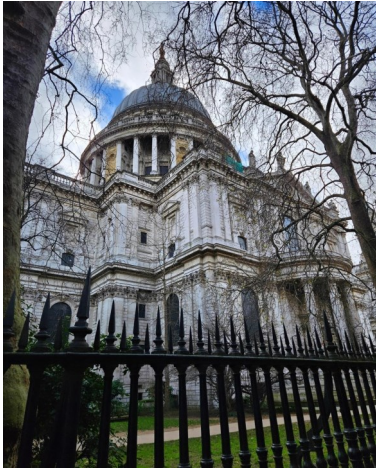
Sae let the Lord be Thankit



Therapy Dog

Congratulations to Tally for passing her Pets as Therapy exam over Christmas. She is now able to work across all our sites as a PAT dog.

London 2024



Ten students visited London on 5th and 6th February. Students travelled by train from Leicester and stayed overnight in one of the Youth Hostels. They explored Westminster Abbey, took time to reflect and see the Coronation Throne. They visited 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Place. Students became familiar with several tube stops and everyone standing on the right of the escalator.

On the Monday they also visited the Natural History Museum and explored the Dinosaur collections and the volatile Earth exhibition about volcanoes and earthquakes. Then heading to Piccadilly Circus and the Hard Rock Cafe which had an amazing display of Musicians memorabilia, Noel Gallagher's Guitar, Ginger Spice's shoes, Amy Winehouse's tank top and David Bowie's amazing costumes. They took a late night trip to the Tower of London and Tower Bridge on the bank of the River Thames. They did over 22000 steps just on the first day!

The second day they had a great breakfast at the Youth Hostel before packing up and visiting the Tate Modern Gallery a short walk from St Paul's across Millenium Bridge. They even got to display some of their graphical artist skills in the Tate! Everyone had a great time visiting London. Thank you to Mr Stafford, Mr Williams and Mrs Carr.



Children's Hospital School

NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE

Horses

Our CHS and Tigers student have had the exciting opportunity to work with Horses for Causes. Every week Sharon brings two ponies where the students are learning about effective communication, team work, confidence and so much more. Each week they do various activities around the ponies from grooming, working together to put a saddle on and even riding one! All of our students have sat on Dylan the horse and been led around the garden. They all love it and look forward to the horses coming in all week.



Eyres Monsell Primary School

Emma and Amy took three CHS students over to Eyres Monsell Primary School to visit their Pre-School and Reception classes. The students will go over weekly to play games, interact and read to a small group of children. All the CHS group got really involved with the younger children, all being led around by an army of little people! They were fantastic and they were all complimented by the teacher in the room how brilliant they all were.

Award

The Magpie team has been nominated and selected as a finalist for an award through the Little Beam Foundation. They are a charity designed to support children and young adults struggling with their mental health. The Magpie is up for an award for the work with Mental Health and Wellbeing for Secondary Special Schools and FE. The awards evening takes place on Friday 9th July at the Tigers Stadium. Stay tuned to see whether Magpie win the award!

Uplift

The CHS students have been very busy during uplift this term. Each day the students take part in an activity before they start their lessons. We've started reading 'Goggle Eyes' play as a group, whole school walks whilst the weather has been dry. The students researched what they would like to bake during uplift after half term. They've also been busy crafting, making love bugs, keyrings and we started things off in the new year with the students creating jars and putting their goals and wishes in.



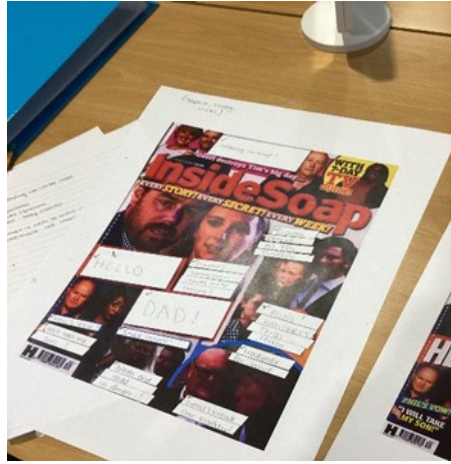
Children's Hospital School



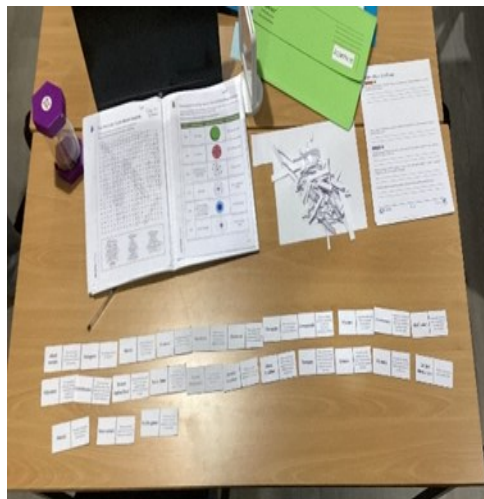
Eyres Monsell
Primary School

NEWS FROM THE BEACON

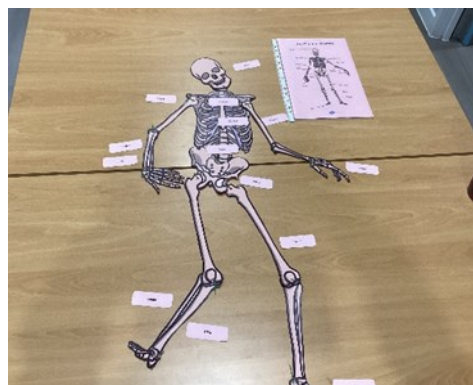
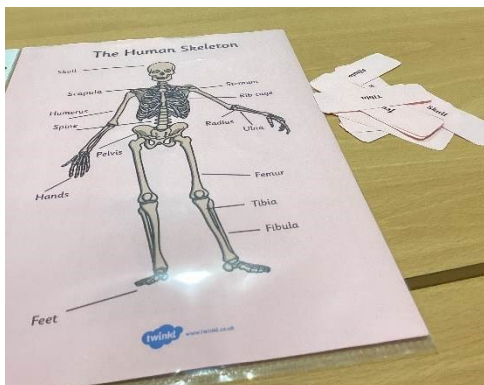
We have had a busy time here at the Beacon. We have welcomed our new English teacher, Kay Quilter. Kay has also introduced Media studies to the young people and they have really enjoyed these lessons and have started to create a front cover for a Beacon magazine.



In science our young people have been studying atomic structure and the periodic table.

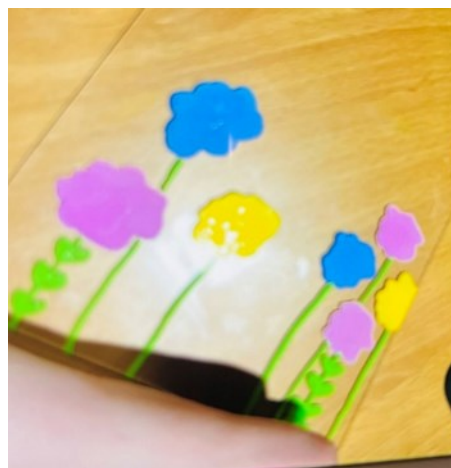


One of our post 16's has been working on an AQA award where they have been studying the human skeleton.



Children's Hospital School

In art we have been experimenting with different mediums, creating images by using posca pens on acrylic and using postage stamps to create beautiful artwork.



Our new Book Flix board has proved a huge success with staff. School staff and our young people have been talking about books they have enjoyed.



Children's Hospital School

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

USEFUL WEBSITES



For any drug related problems
questions or issues.

www.talktofrank.com



For drug and alcohol related support

www.Turning-point.co.uk/services/leicester

ONLINE SAFETY



Talk

Chat to their child about their online world, just as they'd ask about their day at school, such as discussing the apps, social networks and websites their child uses.



Explore

Explore and understand the apps, games and sites their child uses and get to know their child's online world better, such as making a list of their child's favourites.



Agree

Make sure they are a good role model and agree common ground rules and boundaries with their family, such as which websites and apps are okay and not okay to use and why, times they are allowed online and what they are allowed to do.



Manage

Make use of the technology. Adapt privacy settings and use parental controls where necessary. Set rewards if their child sticks to the agreements and allow them more freedom as they mature and develop.



Children's Hospital School

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](#)

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER CONTACT DETAILS

Jayne Lister

Family Support Worker - Children's Hospital School

07961 397 364

jlister@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk

Working days are Wednesday and Thursday

Or contact safeguarding@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk



Children's Hospital School

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

2023-2024 TERM DATES

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

YEAR 11 SUMMER 2024 EXAMINATIONS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The summer 2024 national exam timetable has now been published. Please use the QR code which will take you to the EXAMS page on the school website. You will find the timetable along with other useful documents and guidance relating to examinations. Further information will follow in due course.

Contact: exams@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk



**Have a restful half-term and we will see you back on
Monday 26th February.**



Children's Hospital School