

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



Headteacher: Mr S Deadman

Willow Bank School

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March 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

It's been a short half term, but we seem to have packed quite a lot into just 4 weeks. All the students are working hard including those in Year 11 who are preparing for exams after the Easter break. The school is busier than ever before with our biggest cohort being entered for GCSEs. I want to pass on my thanks to staff and families for supporting the young people to make such great progress, whatever year they are in.

Despite the pressures, our staff continue to go above and beyond in providing such an enriching curriculum. In addition to the academic curriculum, there is a very comprehensive offer beyond that including arts, music, sport and Duke of Edinburgh to name but a few.

Our new classrooms arrived at Willow Bank a few weeks ago and everyone was fascinated by the complex operation to lift 5 sections into place. We hope they will be ready for use in the summer term.

Our outreach work to support other organisations also continues to grow and we have now trained over 180 professionals in mental health support. We also piloted some mental health awareness training with post-16 students from a local college which was very well received. Thanks to Lorraine Biddle for developing our offer.

As we approach the exam period it is worth a reminder that staff have provided some detailed revision plans to support during this time. There is information on the website but please contact subject teachers if you'd like any specific information or advice. We know it can be an anxious time, but staff are working hard to help students be at their best.

There are a few developments being planned for next year, including a regional hub of the Children's Hospital School to support young people in SW Leicestershire.

We are saying goodbye to Lynne Miller this week who is retiring after many years of providing careers guidance to our students. She has been an integral part of the school and supported countless young people over the years, both before and after post-16 transitions have taken place. After Easter Lois Martin will be taking on this role and has already met some students.

Like me, you've probably had enough of the wet weather and are looking forward to summer. I hope you all have a restful break and can enjoy the longer and (hopefully) warmer days. We return to school on Monday 8th April.

Best wishes,
Stephen Deadman



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NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

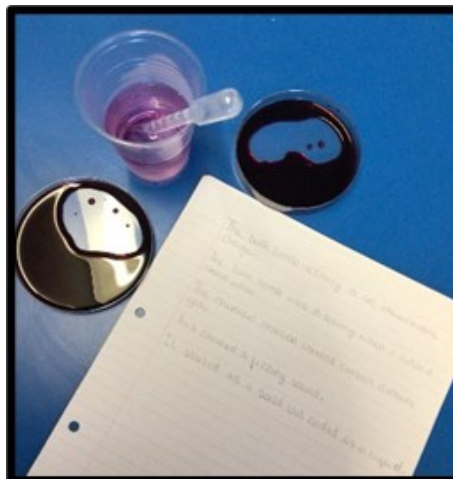
World Book Day 2024

On Thursday 7th March, we had lots of fun at the LRI celebrating World Book Day. Children took part in lots of book themed activities, for example making bookmarks, writing book reviews, drawing book characters, listening to sensory stories including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and creating a game based on Roald Dahl characters in the style of Guess Who! The book trolley was wheeled onto the wards for all children to choose a book. Our students loved seeing us dressed as book characters and had a huge amount of fun guessing who we were dressed as!



British Science Week

During the week of 11th-15th March, our students at the LRI and on Home Tuition had a wonderful time carrying out many different investigations during British Science Week. The children indulged in an array of captivating activities from hands-on experiments to mind-blowing workshops. Finding out things they didn't know, making links and asking questions about what they observed.



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

National Careers Week

For National Careers Week, on Thursday 7th March, Leicestershire Cares organised an employability event at Willow Bank School. The business volunteers did an assembly called speedy speakers, where they each spoke about their career journeys, followed by mock interviews with the students. The employers were extremely positive about the school and the student's efforts during their mock interviews. They all should be proud of themselves.



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day also on Thursday 7th March, staff and students had the opportunity to dress as a character from a book. Everybody looked fantastic!



Leicester Tigers Foundation Engages Year 10 and 11 Students in Wheelchair Sports

Exciting times are underway as our Year 10 and 11 students dive into wheelchair sports with the Leicester Tigers Foundation. This collaborative effort is already in full swing, igniting enthusiasm and camaraderie among participants. Led by skilled coaches, these sessions are not just about sports; they're about fostering inclusivity and understanding.

Students are embracing the challenges and triumphs of wheelchair sports, learning valuable life lessons along the way. As this journey continues, we applaud our students for their openness and determination, and we extend our gratitude to the Leicester Tigers Foundation for this enriching opportunity.



First Aid

Year 11 in DoF and Year 10 in PSHE with Mr Stafford have been learning about basic life support. They all had a go at assessing a situation for danger, checking the causality for a response and then managing the casualty's airway, breathing and circulation.

They were all able to put someone in the recovery position as well as learn the process and skill of CPR. Their management of unconscious casualties who were breathing and not breathing was fantastic! Well done to all those students who took part and have developed a skill for life.

Comic Relief

Friday the 15th March was Comic Relief and some of our wonderful year 11 students decided to take part in the Red Nose Rebellion by running festival hair and make up sessions during uplift, break and lunch.

The students not only raised £98.35 but also managed to give their peers (and staff) vibrant and interesting makeovers! There has never been so much hair tinsel and glitter on display at Willow Bank.

A massive well done to all of those involved!



**COMIC
RELIEF**



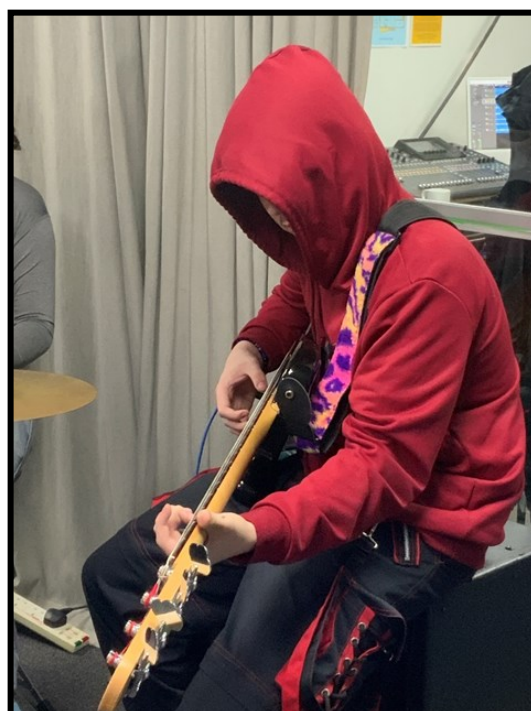
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Soft Touch Music Project

Over the last ten weeks, some of our Year 10 students have been working on a music project with Soft Touch Arts. This has involved composing, rehearsing and recording songs with the project workers from Soft Touch.

The project culminated in two visits to the charity's recording studios on New Walk to record the tracks. The students have done brilliantly and almost certainly have future careers as rock stars.

Special congratulations go to Grace and Evie for performing one of their songs live in front of a packed house at the Soft Touch café as part of their showcase event last month.





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YEAR 11 REVISION AT WILLOW BANK

After Easter there will be only **4 school weeks** remaining until the beginning of the GCSE exams. Students should have received their **CGP revision guide, revision planners and revision bag** (full of goodies to help with their revision!)

Exam packs are coming home with students this week which contain a statement of entry and individual timetable. It is important to look through these and ensure all information is correct. A copy of the exam timetable can also be found on the school website.

The **Easter holiday** is a great opportunity to continue with revision and plan for the remaining weeks leading up to the start of exams. The revision bag contains an Easter booklet with suggested activities to complete. It is also important to have some **relaxation time and fun!**



REVISION TIPS



Declutter your study

**Eat healthy
snacks and drink
lots of water.**

**Make a timetable
but be flexible**

**Sleep well and
avoid late nights**

**Think confident & feel
good about yourself!**



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New Classrooms

Wednesday 6th March was a busy old day at Willow Bank. The Local Authority are helping us increase capacity to help more students with the addition of two modular classrooms.

The buildings are being installed by Pickerings, with the groundworks undertaken by Elmcroft.



Our Air Source Heat Pumps (remember them ?) took a step closer to connection with the delivery of our new GRP cabinet. This will house the school's new electric meter once the increased supply is connected to the Substation.



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NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE

World Book Day

On 7th March, Staff and students celebrated World Book Day coming dressed up as book characters. Starting the day off with reading a play as a group then doing a book related quiz.



Red Nose Day

Dressed in red, we fundraised for Comic Relief. As a small base we managed to raise £20 that will go towards such an important charity helping so many in the UK and around the world. Students baked cookies and enjoyed a Red Nose Day quiz.

Uplift

Uplift continues to be a busy time at MLC. We are regularly going on a walk once a week in the morning now that spring has started to blossom. It's lovely to get the day started with some exercise and fresh air.

Students are always baking and creating delicious treats that make the whole school smell amazing! Students have decided what they wanted to bake so we have started off with Rice Krispie cakes and chocolate chip cookies. We also celebrated St David's Day with Welsh cakes.

Over the past few weeks, students have created an Easter tree that will be re-decorated throughout the term with seasonal decorations.

Courtney

This half term was also when we said goodbye for now to our lovely Courtney. She is off on maternity leave, ready and waiting to welcome her new arrival.

Students helped to bake cakes, make decorations and a card for her last day. We will miss her so much but can't wait to meet little one! Good luck and congratulations Courtney!

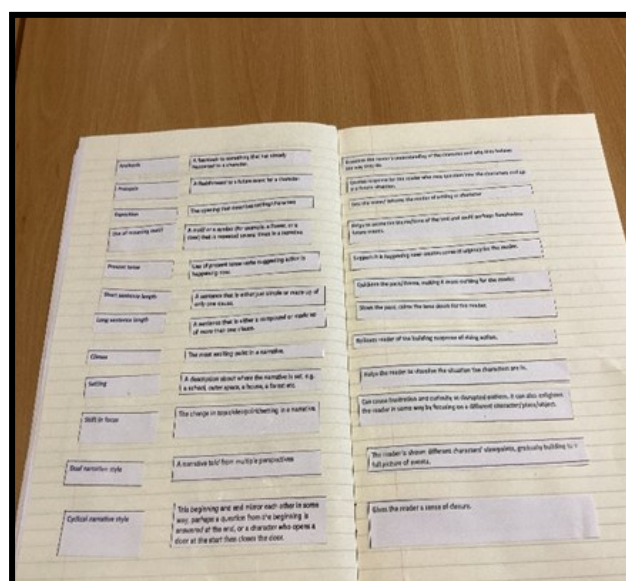
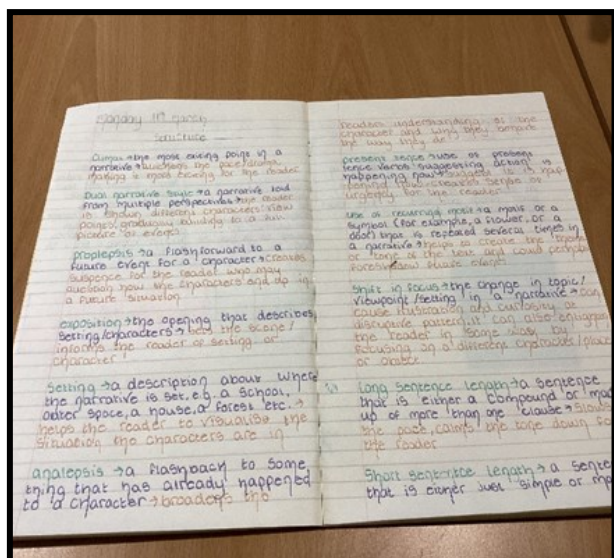


NEWS FROM THE BEACON

On the 5th of March we held our parent / carer coffee and cake drop in session. We were immensely proud to share all the hard work that our young people have been doing in school. The young people were fantastic hosts and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces.



In English our young people have been looking at structure within writing.



Garden

Students have been really busy in the Magpie garden now spring is beginning to spring!

Have a look at what is starting to peak through the soil.....



The potatoes are in!!!

First earlies so shouldn't have to wait too long,
fingers crossed for a bumper harvest again!

Look at what one of our talented students made with the willow growing at our Willow Bank site.

The bed is planted up with peas, hope we will see them soon and that they like growing up our willow pea support.....



Another student at Magpie has been exceptionally busy in the allotment and helped to build our very own pallet compost bin....yay!

Can't wait for our own harvest of school grown compost, maybe next spring.



We have some lovely parsley growing very well in our raised beds.



And can you guess what we found hiding at the bottom of the garden?

.....maybe we can make a crumble with it soon!

Our stunning 'Tigers' mural with gorgeous daffodils in front of it, the garden is filled with them at the minute.



Happy Easter from the
MLC gardening team.

Sublime science

We enjoyed a fantastic workshop by 'Sublime Science' as part of National Science Week in March.

The students amazed us with their engagement, throwing themselves in to experiments such as launching rockets, making sherbert and creating slime.

The presenter, 'Atomic Alex' commented on how well the students had participated and how impressed he was with their ideas.



Eyres Monsell Primary

Our CHS students continue to regularly attend Eyres Monsell Primary school one morning a week, going into their pre school class. Their children absolutely adore CHS students and drag them around playing games, reading books and even doing their hair!

The CHS love spending time with the children and always come out full of joy. I think there are some future child care workers among us.



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Eyres Monsell
Primary School

Easter is almost here! In art our young people have created decorations for our Easter Tree.



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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.



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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



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

2023-2024 TERM DATES

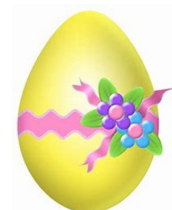
Term No 4: 20 days (4 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 26 February 2024
Schools Close	Friday 22 March 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday 25 March 2024 to Friday 5 April 2024

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

**Have a fantastic Easter break and we will see you
back on Monday 8th April.**

*Happy
Easter*



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