

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



May 2024 Newsletter



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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,

This term seems to have rushed by and we are suddenly in the middle of the GCSE exam period where our Year 11 students continue to work incredibly hard. Everyone has risen to the challenge and given their very best in the exams already completed. I'm sure everyone will appreciate the half-term break ready for the final push when we come back.

I would like to pass on my thanks to all staff, but especially Kathryn whose job it has been to organise everything and everybody. Not only are exams happening at Willow Bank, but the teams at the Beacon and LRI have also jumped into action when students have been admitted as in-patients.

We are really pleased to have appointed two Youth Workers to join our team this term. Alex and Maria will start working with young people and families so I'm sure you will get to know them a lot more over the coming weeks.

There are plenty of activities planned for after half-term including the Duke of Edinburgh expedition, Year 11 prom and of our annual trip to Drayton Manor. I know staff are already planning events for 2024-25 so listen out for details.

Our school has been busier than any time in the past and we are grateful to the Local Authority for providing some additional classroom space at Willow Bank, which we hope will be ready for September.

I hope you have a good half term break with plenty of rest, and I look forward to working with you again when we return.

Best wishes

Stephen Deadman

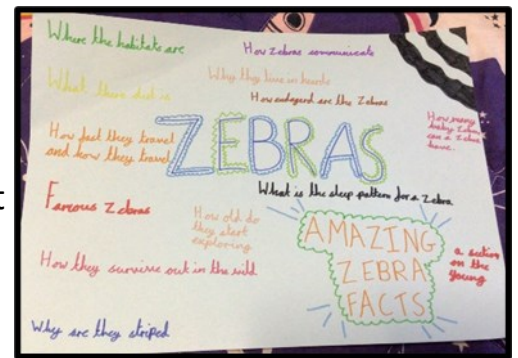


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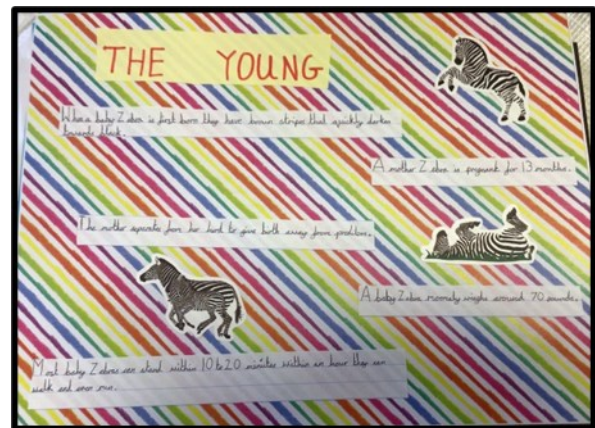
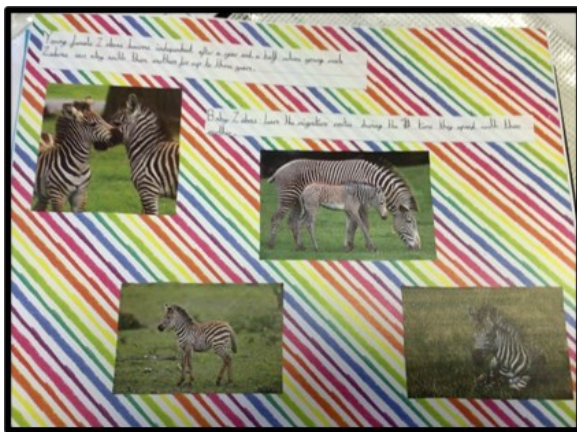
NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY



Elsa was given the "STAR STUDENT" award this week for working exceptionally hard whilst engaging in a project on zebras. From habitats to zebra jokes, this

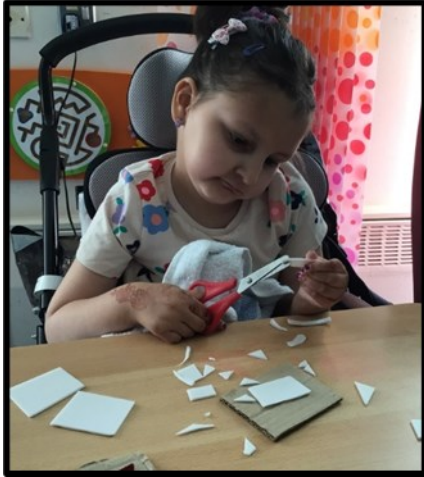


student is oozing in talent and enthusiasm. And whilst staying in hospital, her room has been decorated to showcase her many talents! We are so proud of Elsa's attitude to learning and impressed with her attention to detail! Well done Elsa!



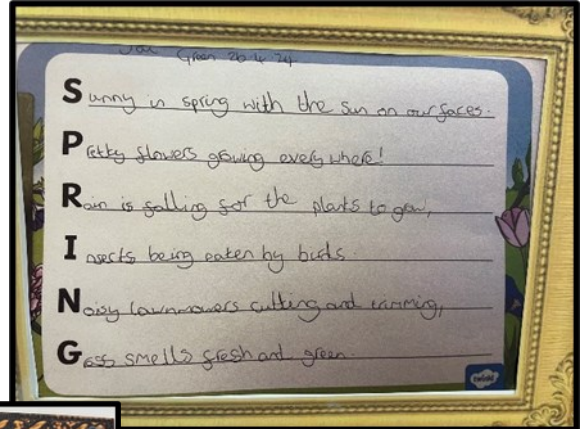
Thursday Art Challenge

For our Thursday Art Focus this half term, our students have been developing their skills in printing. Many of our students have researched the artist William Morris and investigated repeated patterns from textiles and wallpaper. Students have also developed their skills in mono printing through experimentation.



Step into Spring!

The recent sunny spell has inspired our fabulous students to complete the Spring Display in the classroom. From acrostic poems to textured daffodils, it's been an amazing effort across the wards to brighten up the wall!



NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

AQA & Level 2 Food & Hygiene Cooking

Our year 11s over the last two years have completed an AQA cooking course where they have gained valuable knowledge, had fun, and earned lots of certificates in the process. This year, four of our students also completed their Level 2 Food & Hygiene certificate which is a fully recognised qualification that our students can use on their CVs and college course applications.

Cooking not only teaches the important aspects of Kitchen and Food safety as well as basic cooking skills but it also has positive influences on socialization, self-confidence, self-esteem, nutrition, and motivation.

Our student's often start with little confidence but by the end of the year have grown into exceptionally competent and talented bakers having had the opportunity to try out new things, and learn how to adapt and change recipes to suit different dietary needs. It also gives students a new appreciation for nutrition and helps to improve their own understanding of the importance of eating healthier and to try new things.

These are some of the things that our students have covered:

Kitchen Safety	How to use a wide range of equipment in the kitchen
Food Safety	Working with different types of Pastry.
Food Presentation	Creating our own recipes – own muffins
Healthy Eating	Adapting recipes for different dietary requirements—scones
Making sauces	Different styles of cakes – whisking/creaming/melting/rubbing in method
Cooking with meat	Celebration Cakes – Christmas and Mother's Day.
Rasing agents – Breads/Pizza	



Last year the students visited a fruit picking farm and then made homemade jam that was used in an afternoon tea that the students put on for some of our senior staff and governors. This year the students created celebration Christmas cakes that all the staff got to view, and the students got to take home. Our students have all really enjoyed cooking, forming friendships, gaining confidence as well as practising their skills at home which has been great to see.

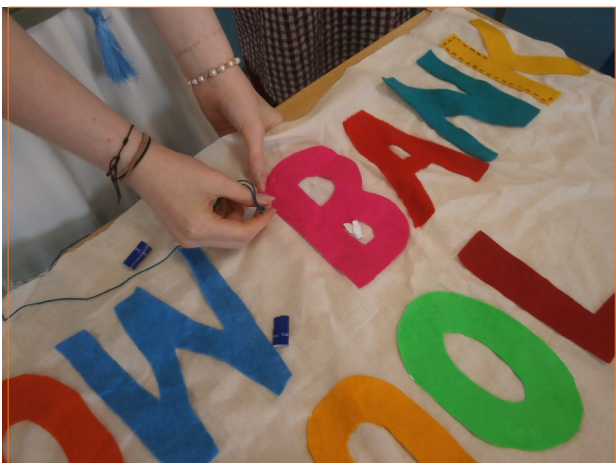
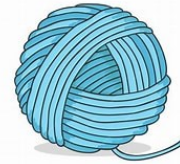


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Cosby Yarn Bomb

Here are some of the photos of the work students have been doing to make a flag for the Cosby Yarn Bomb. They were given the task of creating something that was important to them for their small individual flags and the large flag was to represent our school community.

They still need to finish it, but here are some action shots! Kully and Bethany have been working with the students to produce this!



YEAR 11 REVISION AT WILLOW BANK

GCSE exams are now well underway.

Scan here to access a copy of the exam timetable.

A copy can also be found on the school website.

Continue with revision but remember to have a good rest and enjoy the half-term break.



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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NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE

Soft Touch

We are delighted to say that we have Soft Touch Arts working with our CHS students. Every Friday morning the amazing team from Soft Touch lead a session playing various instruments. They are learning basics on keyboard, guitar, drums, bass and percussion! During the process the students will write their own song, eventually going to the Soft Touch music studio and recording their very own track. The students love it and are doing so well at getting fully stuck in and giving it a go.



Baking

As always, the Magpie have been baking up a storm! This term has been a particular triumph.

The students have made red velvet cupcakes, a cherry cake, lemon drizzle cake, scones, blueberry muffins and rocky road! All were a raging success, and the staff and students thoroughly enjoyed it!



Crafts

The students have also been busy bees creating lots of lovely crafts. The students have tried hard and created some amazing pieces of work in their art lessons, during uplift and at lunch time. Clay has been a firm favourite with lots of our students and they've created some fabulous sculptures from bees, and penguins to bowls.



Makaton

During a PD slot, Emma and Charlie have been teaching the students some Makaton, a communication tool with signs and symbols. They have learnt the alphabet and numbers, the months of the year, questions, animals, colours, family and feeling and emotions. They have also started to learn the alphabet in deafblind too. They love it and all remembering everything really well. They're even starting to use it outside of the lesson!

New intervention students

We have welcomed our last Foxes group of the academic year and a new group of Tigers. These students have settled in really well and the Magpie team are so impressed with how brilliant they are.

Upcoming trips

After half term there are lots of exciting trips coming up for CHS students. They are going to Drayton Manor, Van Gogh Immersive experience as part of Art, a Treasure Trail around the city centre as part of DofE and Cocoa Amore to create their own chocolate bar!

Arduino Boards

Students created circuits using Arduino boards at the Magpie Learning Centre. Students designed circuits and learned about programming concepts through languages such as C/C++.

Students liked the hands-on approach to demystifying some more complex coding tasks. This activity introduces students to the possible real-world applications in a fun project-based learning environment.



As the demand for STEM skills continues to grow, proficiency in electronics and programming becomes increasingly valuable in the job market. By incorporating Arduino into our curriculum, we prepare students for future careers in robotics, IoT (Internet of Things) and automation. Moreover, the problem-solving and critical thinking skills gained through Arduino projects are applicable across a wide range of professions.

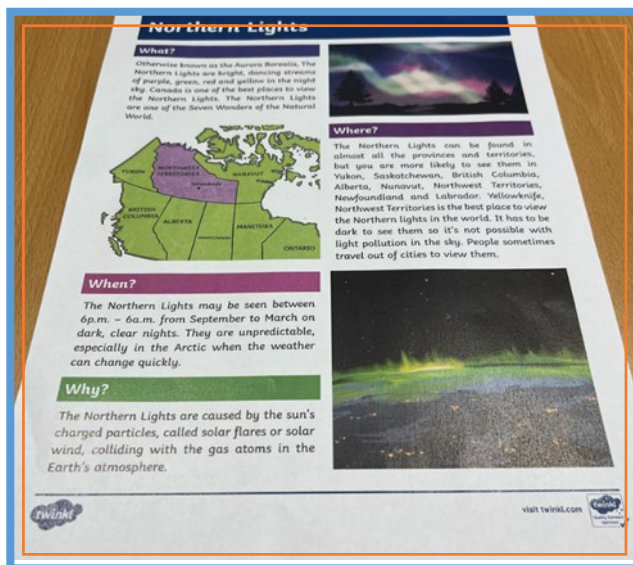
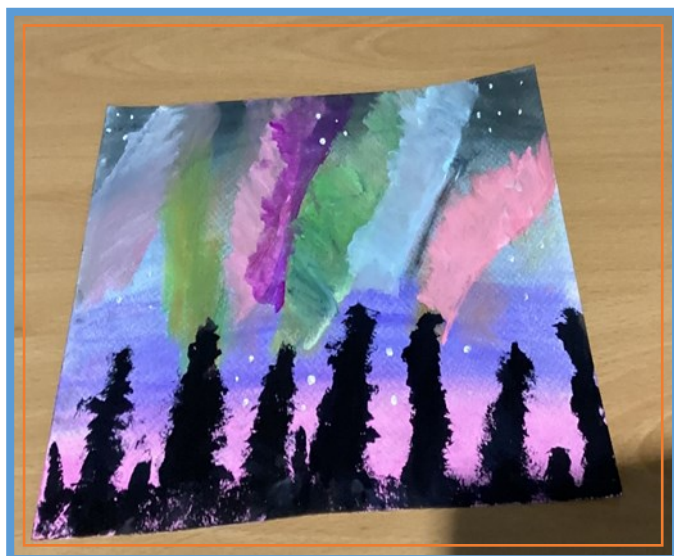


Magpie Garden Update

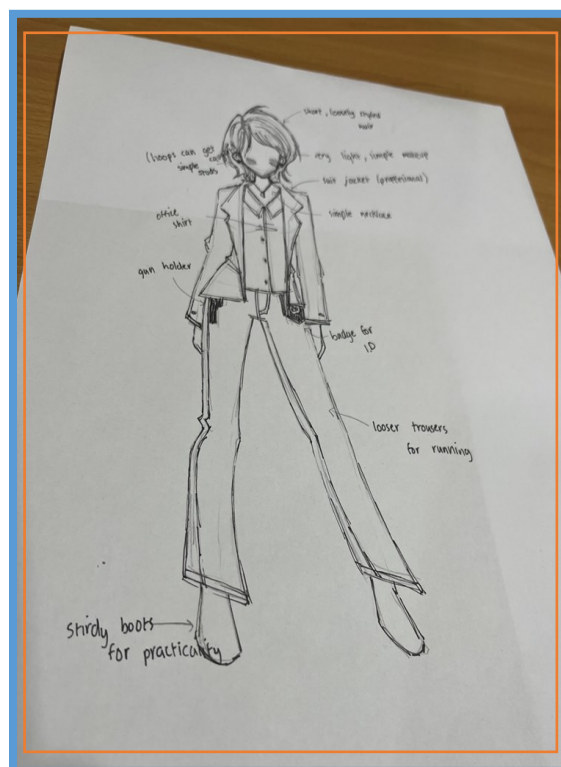


NEWS FROM THE BEACON

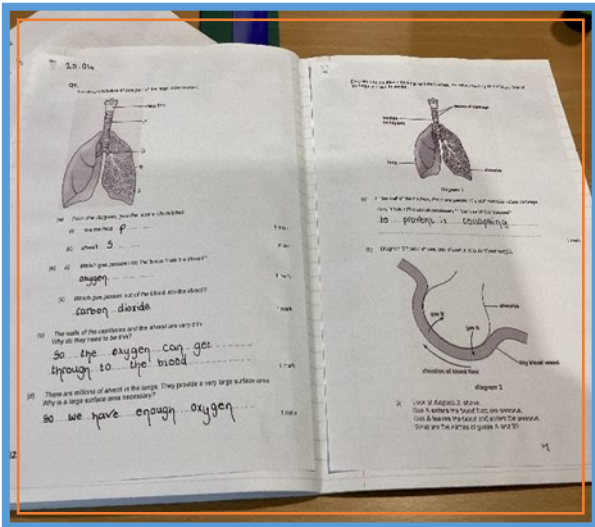
Exciting things have been happening at The Beacon this month. The sighting of the Northern Lights over the UK on the 10th May, brought much pleasure, inspiring one of our students to delve further into the phenomenon, incorporating it into their science and art lessons. Coloured pastels were used to create images of the lights.



In AQA Awards, one student has been completing a unit on fashion design. She has researched designers and then moved on to sketch her individual design. We have managed to acquire a mannequin and the process of creating the pattern has begun.



In Science the students have been looking at breathing and making models of the lungs.



In English we had a murder! Our scheme of work over the last month on a Wednesday has been Murder Mystery.

Everyone enjoyed this theme as it incorporated inference, reporting and recording skills and hot seating.

This was delivered as a fully immersive experience and future Detective Inspectors have been identified!



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

**Have an excellent half-term break and we will
see you back on Monday 3rd June.**



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