

Children's Hospital School

'Better Together'



Headteacher: Mr S Deadman

Willow Bank School

Simmins Crescent

Leicester

LE2 9AH

Summer 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,

As we approach the end of another action-packed year, I want to say a huge thank you to all the staff and students who have created such an amazing atmosphere across each of our school provisions. It's such a special place and I feel very privileged to have seen so many brilliant activities going on and been witness to such great progress by our young people. 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.

Last week we said goodbye to our biggest ever Year 11 cohort 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.

2024 marks the 75th anniversary of the school having been established at the General Hospital in 1949 and starting life in an oxygen room with four fold up chairs and one teacher! We have come such a long way since then and are preparing to open our 5th provision located in Hinckley from September 2024. The Phoenix Learning Centre will provide short-term placements for young people in and around that area.

It seems a long while ago, but back in October we were thrilled to be rated 'outstanding' again by OFSTED following their inspection. However, the work doesn't stop there as we continuously strive to improve our support to all within the school community. We are involved in several national initiatives, including work with the Department of Education, Challenge Partners, National Association for Hospital Education, and numerous local authorities.

In September we have four new members of staff starting with us – Nicola Woolley (admin) based at the Magpie, Hannah Hardy (TA), Adam Taylor (TA) and Alison Cumiskay (lunchtime activity coordinator) based at Willow Bank. Sadly, we are saying goodbye to Sheetal Karsan who has supported young people at Willow Bank for 3 years. I know she will be missed, and we wish her the very best.

I am sure we are all looking forward to a well-earned rest over the summer, and 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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NEWS FROM LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY

Hello Summer

It has been an incredibly busy year at the LRI. We are privileged to meet so many wonderful children and their families.

We wish all our families well over the summer break.

Here is our summer display showcasing many of our children's magnificent work.

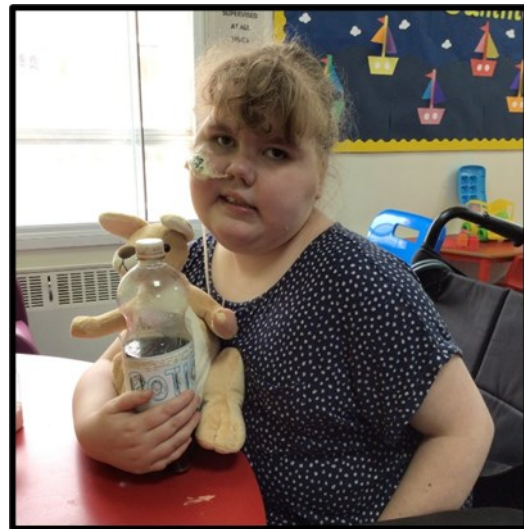


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One of our fabulous students has been awarded “Star Student” this half term for the amazing progress she has made. Isabella has loved taking part in her Paw Print Unicorn Challenge. From creating her own mythical creature to producing a wonderful magical potion, Isabella has amazed us with her creativity and enthusiasm.

Well done, Isabella!



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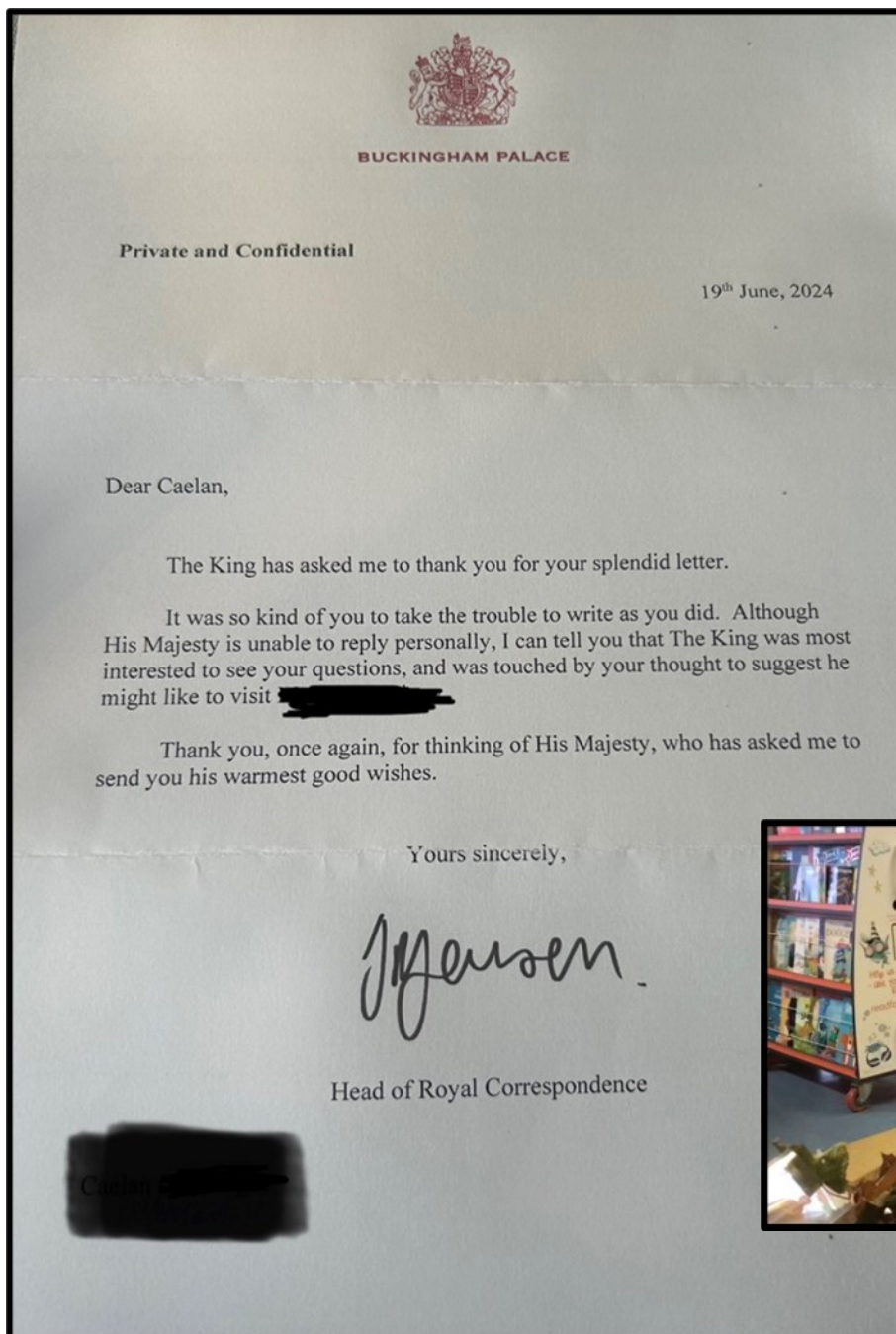
Royal News

It is always so lovely to hear from students who have been discharged and this news gave the staff at the LRI a reason to celebrate!!!

With a special interest in The Royal Family, Caelan really enjoyed celebrating The King's Coronation and researching the Royal family tree.

In his English lessons, he wrote a letter to the King and whilst Mr Stafford was visiting London with some students from Willow Bank, he made a slight detour to post Caelan's very important letter.

We were so excited to hear that Caelan has received a reply from Buckingham Palace!!



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NEWS FROM WILLOW BANK SCHOOL

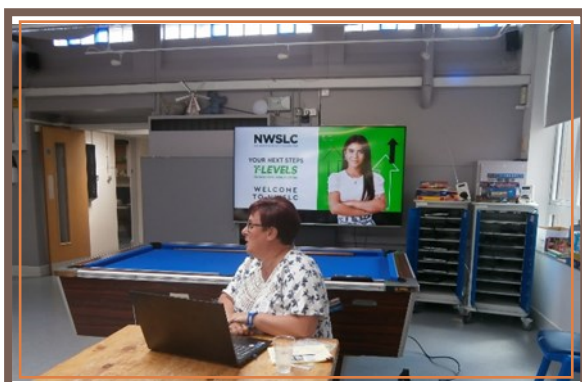
Year 10 Public Transport Initiative

As part of their preparation to gain life skills, some students at Willow Bank School had the opportunity to take part in activities on how to access public transport and read maps, using the Leicester Hop free bus service around the city centre. This service is operated by fully electric buses with zero emissions, allowing for a quieter, smoother ride, as well as helping to keep the air across Leicester cleaner and fresher. It also croaks, much to the students' amusement!



T Levels

On Monday 17th June, Debbie Partridge from North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College delivered an assembly to our year 10 students about T Levels. Debbie talked to the students about what T Levels are, as well as what each campus offers. The students asked some insightful questions and the presentation enabled them to start to think about their post 16 choices.



80%

CLASSROOM

20%

WORK

T Levels are ideal for students who have finished GCSEs and want the knowledge and experience to get straight into employment, an apprenticeship or higher education.

80% in the classroom and 20% with an employer to gain knowledge and skills companies look for.



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We would like to say a huge thank you to those parents who gave the some amazing cards and gifts. It is all very much appreciated!

EXAM RESULTS

Please note that results day will be on Thursday 22nd August at Willow Bank School between 9am and 10am.

Further details regarding results collection can be found on the website, in the Student Exams section.



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NEWS FROM THE MAGPIE

Intervention groups

We said goodbye to our final group of Foxes and wish them all the best back in their mainstream schools. We welcomed our first 12-week placement group of Tigers. They have engaged really well with the initial activities and are looking forward to starting their full curriculum in the first week back after the holidays.



Trips

Magpie students have been so busy on trips this half term!

Drayton Manor was a great success. Our students managed to get on lots of rides and thoroughly enjoyed their day out! All students went on the log flume and got soaked which was probably the highlight of the trip and of course hilarious.

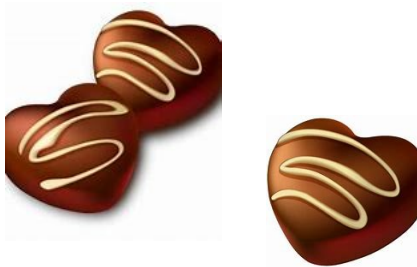
As part of their Duke of Edinburgh studies, students completed a treasure trail around the city centre, based around Richard III. They had to follow directions, look for clues and collate evidence to find out who committed the murder of a fictional historian! Students showed great team-work and navigational skills and we found the culprit!

With links to our Art curriculum, students enjoyed a visit to the Van Gogh experience. Students said that their favourite part of the visit was the immersive room-where his paintings were brought to life across the walls, ceiling and floor. Students also took part in a VR experience where they found themselves inside the actual paintings.

Along with Willow Bank, Magpie went to Twycross Zoo. They got to see lots of different animals and enjoy seeing some up close, even feeding the birds nectar whilst they flew around them.

Cocoa Amore was amazing! The students learnt how the company source and make their chocolate from the very beginning. They learnt about where cocoa beans grow and the processes, they go through to be made into the familiar bars we know and love. All students tasted various kinds of chocolates from white to dark, some were better than others. Everybody then got to make their own chocolate bars with whatever toppings they wanted, followed by making truffles. Whilst the chocolate set, we got a tour of the shop and the kitchen. The students loved this experience and came away having lots of knowledge about everything to do with chocolate making.





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Eyres Monsell Primary

We visited the pre-school pupils for the final time this academic year as they prepare to start in their Reception class after the holidays. Primary School staff have been completely amazed by our CHS students and how they have supported both play and academic learning. They are adamant that our students should consider careers in childcare or education because they have been so brilliant this year! We look forward to getting to go to a new class after the holidays.

Well-being Day



To help with wellbeing, Magpie arranged a day of activities that the students could join in. We started the morning sewing dried lavender hearts followed by making slime! They then made freshly squeezed orange juice and lemonade before making face masks. Bravely, Kerry, Amy and Susan let the students put the face masks on them! They then finished the day by watching a film of their choice, Madagascar. Students (and staff!) really enjoyed the day and the activities.

Seaside Day

As an end of term reward, the Magpie arranged a seaside themed day. With help from the students we had a tin can alley, hook a duck, popcorn stands, ice cream parlour and a photo booth. This day was a great success and was lovely to see the students enjoying themselves. The students hand made ice cream the week before for us to serve, this was a firm favourite with everyone!

Magazines



A huge thank you to Park Dental in Mountsorrel who have been kindly donating their wonderful magazines each month.

Thank you guys, the students and staff are enjoying reading these in social times and in some lessons!



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Here at the Magpie Learning Centre this term students have been looking at pond life in close up!!!



And the most recent photo, good luck to these little guys.



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The allotment is looking nice here in the summer term.

We have been growing lots of lovely herbs and some carrots, which are looking great!



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NEWS FROM THE BEACON

It has been a productive month at The Beacon with GCSE exams; well done to our young people who took part.

We have a few events coming up in the coming weeks: on the last day of term we have a ward summer fayre for the young people and from the beginning of August our summer school will run twice weekly.



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

Jayne will be working one day per week during the summer holiday.

Or contact safeguarding@childrenshospitalschool.leicester.sch.uk

The Household Support Grant (HSG) has been launched for the final time in the County on 03/06/2024. If County families are struggling with Household fuel bills and are in debt, plus are in receipt of certain benefits, Jayne can support them to apply. The HSG will continue until the money 'runs out'.



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS



Children's Hospital School – Term Dates 2024/2025

Term No 1: 37 days (7 weeks 2 days)	
Schools Open	Wednesday 28 August 2024
Schools Close	Thursday 17 October 2024
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Friday 18 October 2024
Autumn Half Term Holiday	Monday 21 October 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024

Term No 2: 39 days (7 weeks 4 days)	
Schools Open	Monday 28 October 2024
INSET day (closed to pupils)	Monday 25 November 2024
Schools Close	Friday 20 December 2024
Christmas & New Year Holiday	Monday 23 December 2024 to Friday 3 January 2025

Term No 3: 30 days (6 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 6 January 2025
Schools Close	Friday 14 February 2025
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 17 February 2025 to Friday 21 February 2025

Term No 4: 35 days (7 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 24 February 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 April 2025
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 April 2025 to Friday 25 April 2025

Term No 5: 19 days (3 weeks 4 days)	
Schools Open	Monday 28 April 2025
May Bank Holiday (schools closed)	Monday 5 May 2025
Schools Close	Friday 23 May 2025
Summer Half Term Holiday	Monday 26 May 2025 to Friday 30 May 2025

Term No 6: 30 days (6 weeks)	
Schools Open	Monday 2 June 2025
Schools Close	Friday 11 July 2025
Summer Holiday begins	Monday 14 July 2025

190 Pupil Days



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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Do you need support and advice about the benefits you are receiving?

Jags Katwa

Supporting.Families@dwp.gov.uk

07776 166327

Supporting Families Employment Adviser (Department for Work and Pensions)

Leicester City Council

Summer Safeguarding

The Central Access Point for CAMHS and support for Mental Health can be contacted on 0808 800 3302.

If your message requires action to safeguard a child or young person please contact the appropriate Local Authority for Children's Early Help or Social Care or the relevant emergency service(s):

Leicester City - 0116 454 1004

Leicestershire - 0116 305 0005

Rutland - 01572 758 407

There is a variety of places offering cheap access to families in receipt of universal credit and other named benefits. Please see links below:-

<https://www.londonzoo.org/plan-your-visit/london-zoo-tickets/universal-credit-tickets>

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/one-pound-tickets/#gs.bdkoth>

<https://www.whipsnadezoo.org/plan-your-visit/whipsnade-zoo-tickets/universal-credit-tickets>

<https://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/visit/tickets>

The last day of term is Friday 12th July 2024 at 12:50pm.

Magpie Learning Centre and Willow Bank School will reopen on Wednesday 28 August 2024 at 9am. Have a fantastic summer holiday.



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