# PARENT / CARERS A NEWSLETTER



### **PRINCIPAL BLOG**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another academic year, I am filled with pride and excitement over the achievements and developments at our school. This term has been particularly vibrant, with a mix of academic rigor, extra-curricular success, and significant progress in our school infrastructure.

First and foremost, I want to commend our students for their brilliance during the recent exams. The dedication, hard work, and determination demonstrated has been exemplary. It is always inspiring to see students rise to the challenge, showcasing their knowledge and skills. I am confident that the results will reflect their efforts, and I look forward to celebrating their successes.

Our Year 10 students have also been particularly focused this term, preparing for their Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs). Their commitment to revising and working hard has been commendable. These exams are crucial in preparing for their final GCSEs, and it's evident that our Year 10 cohort is taking this responsibility seriously.

I am pleased to report that the building works on our roof are well underway and there has been minimal disturbance. We anticipate the completion of the roof renovation by the start of the next academic year, which will greatly enhance the safety and aesthetics of our school building.

The final weeks of the summer term, sees several exciting events on the horizon, here's to name a few:

- Transition days and evenings for new Year 7 and Sixth Form students
- We look forward to showcasing the incredible musical talents of our students, once again, at our Summer Concert
- Participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards has seen a brilliant pick-up this year, June and July see assessments for Silver Award and an expedition for Bronze Award
- Enrichment week provides a fantastic opportunity to celebrate positivity and the hard work of all our students, through a variety of activities and trips across all year groups
- Our production of Matilda promises to be a spectacular event. The staff involved have been working tirelessly, students had their first auditions this week and this will no doubt be a highlight of our next academic year

Finally, I want to remind all parents and carers about the availability of free school meals. This important support can significantly benefit eligible families, ensuring that all students have access to nutritious meals during the school day. Please do not hesitate to apply if you think you may be eligible.

In conclusion, this term has been a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, staff, and the entire school community. Let's continue to support one another as we finish the academic year on a high note.

Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school and I hope all you enjoy a glorious Summer.

Mr S Frazer Principal

# UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Dates for your diary...

1-2 July : Year 6 Transition Days

2 July : Year 6 Transition Evening - 5.30-7pm

3 July : Summer Concert - 6.30pm

5 July : Year 11 Prom - Mercure Daventry Court Hotel

10-11 July : Awards Evenings

12 July : Sixth Form Ball





#### School Trips happening this month...

29 June - 1 July: Silver DofE Assessed - Year 10

2 July : Warhammer Club Trip

2 July : Digital Futures Trip - Year 10

6-7 July : Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

8 July : Sports Leadership -

Daventry KS1 Athletics Festival

11 July : Art/Photography Sketching

around Guilsborough - Year 10&12

12 July : Brandon Marshes Trip - Year 12

#### **Enrichment week**

15 July
16 July
16 July
Year 8 - Woburn Safari Park
17 July
Year 9 - Woburn Safari Park
18 July
Year 10 - Woburn Safari Park

### **ASSEMBLIES**

1 July Anniversary of the launch of

the NHS

Women's Suffrage (Emmeline 8 July

Pankhurst's birthday)

Rewards and Celebration 15 July





# REPORTS/EXAMS/ ASSESSMENTS

w/c Year 8 Reports out and analysis

1 July

w/c Year 10 Reports out and analysis

8 July

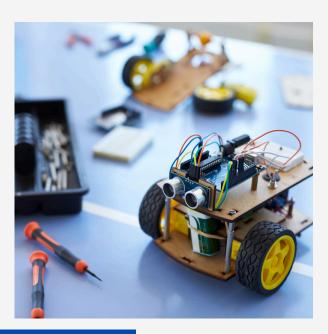
w/c

8 July

Year 12 Reports out and analysis

# EXTRA-CURRICULUM CLUBS

Please follow the LINK to view our extra-curriculum clubs.





Dear parents/carers,

As you are aware, safeguarding is the number one priority at Guilsborough Academy. We have a team of Designated Safeguarding Leads and work with multiple agencies to seek guidance and support for our young people and families.

Our Personal Development and Life Skills curriculum covers a wide range of topics designed to educate students on how to keep themselves safe.

I wanted to share two links with you which highlight the dangers of young people being groomed and potentially meeting up with strangers. Social media is presenting parents, carers and schools with endless concerns and issues surrounding young people and risky behaviour.

We were recently made aware of a number of students meeting up with someone they had met via a social media platform. Thankfully, the Police have taken action, and the students involved are safe and well.

I would encourage you to watch Kayleigh's Love Story and if you feel it is appropriate to share this with your child. It is hard hitting, and the topic is distressing but the educational element is powerful and sends a clear message.

#### **NSPCC**

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/grooming/

#### Kayleigh's Love Story – Leicestershire Police film

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsbYHI-rZOE



#### **DEVELOPMENT PLANS - MONTHLY UPDATE - JUNE 2024**

#### **Leadership and Management**

Due to a positive recruitment campaign, the academy is in a positive position with regards to staffing for September. With the resignation date for teaching staff now passed, leaders know that only one vacancy remains. We are currently recruiting a teacher/lead teacher of Spanish and we are meeting with a candidate for this post. Given the significant recruitment challenges faced by all schools, this is extremely positive news. Over the past 18 months, we have been supporting one of our colleagues on their personal journey to becoming a qualified school counsellor. This is a development we have been working towards so that we can ensure we have in-house counselling available.

Safeguarding continues to be our number one priority and during this term we will be conducting a lockdown drill. We understand that this will be challenging for some of our more vulnerable students, so we are preparing all of our students in advance. We will be communicating with parents/carers on the day this is happening. Sticking with the theme of safeguarding, leaders have been planning the staff training days in September. All staff receive annual training on key issues, they also receive training on the use of EpiPens and how to manage students with diabetes. New staff will also receive the diabetes training to ensure all staff in school are fully trained. In November, all staff will also receive face-to-face training on Prevent.

#### Quality of Education

We have been consolidating all the training that has taken place with our Middle Leaders and supporting them with how they present their subject to visitors to the school. There has been a big shift onto the impact that this is having now that the process of the curriculum intent and subsequent implementation has taken place. Our final adaptation has been to the start and end of lessons, for consistency but also to ensure a calm and orderly start and end to the learning episode.

We are planning for our return in September to ensure that we hit the ground running. This will include a review of all that was completed this year and our intentions for the new academic year. The main focus will be the monitoring in the classrooms to ensure that knowing more, remembering more is embedded, gaps in knowledge are addressed and adaptations are made to meet the needs of our SEND students. Alongside this, we have a number of new staff starting with us either in July or in September who will bring additional strategies, but will also be trained in the areas that we have been focusing on to ensure that our students receive consistency.

#### **Behaviour and Attitudes**

With the end of the academic year in sight, we are reflecting on the progress made across the Academy this year to inform our actions for September. As you may have noted in the news, levels of poor punctuality and internal truancy within schools has increased since COVID. Whilst these behaviours are conducted by a small minority of our students, we prioritised their eradication this year due to the impact for other students and staff whose lessons are interrupted by late arrivals or are prevented from delivering timetabled interventions to support others due to locating noncompliant students. We are pleased with the qualitative and quantitative data gathered that suggest punctuality to lessons is improving, with the number of detentions issued decreasing between the previous two terms and a 3% decrease in the number of students who receive >1 punctuality detention in a term and a 68% decrease for those with >5. Pleasingly, there was also a 23% decrease in the number of students who felt that students' arrive late to all or most lessons' between May 2023 and March 2024. We will continue to challenge poor punctuality to ensure that students can maximise every learning opportunity. Whilst we continue to finalise the Academy's priorities for next year, another area will be to extend the restorative work of the new Responsibility Cards to department areas to enable class teachers to engage in conversations with students regarding poor behaviour and any barriers to learning. Finally, we are looking forward to celebrating our students' successes in the final celebration assembly of the year, which will also showcase students' talents from within the Performing Arts department.

#### **Personal Development**

This term, we are hosting Knife Crime workshops for Year 7 students to raise awareness and promote safety. Additionally, the organization Ngage will be speaking to all year groups about the dangers of vaping, highlighting the importance of making informed and healthy choices.

Enrichment Week this term offers students a diverse array of activities designed to broaden their horizons and develop their skills. These activities include team building and problem-solving through the 'Squashed Tomato' STEM challenge. There will also be a subject enrichment day featuring DT, English, Drama, Music, and Humanities with an exciting Olympics theme, exploring different countries and cultures. Students will also enjoy a school visit and a lively sports day, fostering a sense of community and physical wellbeing.

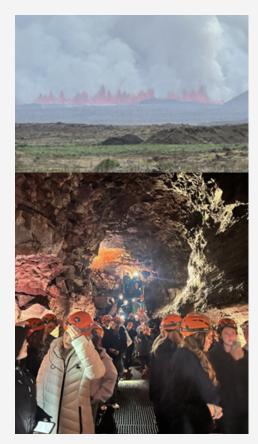
As advised in the last update, the new RSE curriculum and resources have been introduced, and student feedback on the new content has been overwhelmingly positive. We have introduced several new extra-curricular activities this term, including Dance, Cookery, and Lego building. These activities have quickly become popular, also receiving positive feedback from both students and staff. We continue to work closely with our student voice group to ensure their perspectives are integrated into our planning and delivery. For the new academic year, assembly themes have been determined. Our assembly 'Theme of the Week' programme runs throughout the year, in line with the school's wellbeing calendar, and it seamlessly connects local, national, and international issues to the tutor and PSHE programme. Each theme is directly linked to one or more of our core values.

# GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ICELAND

In May half term, 40 students and 4 teachers were lucky enough to visit Iceland for a 5 day trip.

On **Day 1** we flew into to Keflavik International Airport and were met by our guide. We stopped at a viewpoint to see recent lava flows that had taken place. Little did we know what we would witness later in the week. We then visited Flyover Iceland, an exhilarating experience of 4D cinematic views across Iceland before going to the Hotel for the evening.

**Day 2** was the Golden Circle. We started by visiting the Secret Lagoon bathing in the hot spring. Then onto Gullfloss, a mighty waterfall followed by the spectacular sights at Geyser Geothermal area, with a Geyser going off 3 times in a row, soaking a few of our students. A brief stop at Efsidalur Ice Cream farm sitting with the cows, to enjoy a tasty pot of ice cream was followed by visiting the tectonic ridge at Thingvellir National Park, with a stunning bonus waterfall called Oxarafoss.



Day 3 we visited the South Coast and started our day at the Lava Centre with stunning views of the volcano Hekla. We stopped at a stunning volcano Skogafoss and then drove to a coastal viewpoint to spot puffins (only one was spotted). A quick stop at Vik gave the students the opportunity to buy a few souvenirs before we visited the stunning geology on the black sand beach at Reynisfjara. We really packed in a lot on this day as our next stop was the stunning view of the Solheimajokull Glacier, before our final stop at the Seljalandfoss waterfall and an extra special look at the Gljufrabui waterfall in a tiny cavern.

Day 4 was a little more laid back as we started the day a little later (a much needed lie in) by visiting Raufarholsheillir Lava tunnel for a guided tour. Students were blown away by the ice stalagmites and shape of the tunnel with lava layers inside leaving beautiful patterns and colours. Students were excited to learn that NASA scientists have been in that exact same tunnel to study aliens (bacteria)! The least popular stop was next at Krysuvik Mud Puddles due to the very strong smell of sulphur. Lunch was taken with a view of the huge Lake Kliefarvath before we drove into Reykjavik for a tour and time to visit the rather expensive shops and sights of the capital city.

Day 5 was departure day, but as out flights were later in the afternoon it gave us a chance to visit the Hellisheioi Geothermal Powerplant. We then drove to the Hveradalir Geothermal area and the Reykjanes Lighthouse for some stunning coastal views. It was at this point that the students were sent alert texts on their phones to evacuate the area quickly (but actually we were just connecting to a nearby tower). We were close to the town of Grindavik, the town that has experienced eruptions in recent months. Our tour guide advised that we not stay too long in the area, so we made a very quick stop at the bridge over the Continents before heading back towards the airport. As we were making our journey one of the students received a notification that the area near Grindavik had begun erupting along the fissue near Sylingafell. Suddenly we were able to see the eruption from the side of the road, so our driver found a safe spot for us to stop and witness the eruption. It was spectacular and a moment many of the students and staff will never forget. We made it back to the airport in time for our flight home and some students were able to view the eruption from the air.

The students were a real credit to the school and behaved impeccably throughout our visit and we were very proud to be there with them. Due to the success of this visit we have organised another visit to Iceland in 2025 for the next Year 10 and 12 cohorts.

Mrs Shiels, Miss Stephenson, Mr Flanagan and Mr Niland

# YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE FEEDBACK



## Year 10 Work Experience Update...

Cecile had a lot of overview sessions with various teams and approached each one with the same enthusiasm and interest.



- 100% Good or Excellent Punctuality and reliability
- 98% Good or Excellent Overall attitude
- 98% Good or Excellent Communication
- 94% Good or Excellent Problem Solving
- 96% Good or Excellent Teamwork
- 98% Good or Excellent Independence
- NO 'poor' responses.
- · Majority of students rating placements 8/10 or higher

some notes following meetings with clients, she also drafted some notes in respect of evidence she had read. She did an excellent job. Her notes were detailed, specific and her spelling and grammar were of a very high quality.

#### **Employer comments...**

Reuben helped and supported making
including
inside out, biscuits, including
rolling, shaping, cutting He
rolling, shaping, the icing. He
positioning of the icing. With what
positioning and stuck which was
interacted well and task which was
interacted well are task
most helpful to the

Megan was
praised by the
staff she worked
with for her
interactions with the
children and her
mannerisms with them
at all times.

The team were impressed by Emily's enthusiasm. Emily could be relied on to complete a task well. She also showed initiative within the given tasks.

As the week went on Jack showed confidence of his place in the team offering ideas on how we could improve our operation. He fully understood the importance of the environmental impact in our business and made an excellent suggestion for reusing waste coffee beans from the roasting process. This suggestion has now been fully implemented within the business.

Hanna was able to follow the teacher's instructions well but also adapted to the needs of the children and stepped in to help unprompted. It was a pleasure to have her in school.

Brooke learnt extremely quickly offering support to new employees and her ability to coach others was outstanding. Brooke offered assistance to customers with special needs without being asked on multiple occasions.

I only ever had to tell her once how to do something and she just got it and remembered for the next time.

Harry's
communication
with all the staff was
wonderful, he asked
many questions
and was very
interested in all
departments

### **SOUL SPACE**

#### Guilsborough Soul Space

After 3 years of planning and preparation, Guilsborough Soul Space opened in C4 in the LRC this term.

At a time when there is so much going on in and around young peoples' lives, the Soul Space provides a place where students of all faiths and none can be quiet, think, meditate, pray and find meaning; it is available for students to book into for ten minute sessions during lunchtimes. The space makes a contribution to the Academy's spiritual education.





Many primary schools have been developing similar spaces which are often known as "prayer spaces" and our space provides continuity for young people as they transition from the primary to the secondary phase. We have worked with local faith partners to prepare the space and are excited by the developing partnership to enrich our young people's spiritual experience.

The theme for our first season is

"New hope and new beginnings"

and this is reflected in the décor of the space and the reflection that is prepared for students based on words of Martin Luther King Jr:

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope"



Room C4 is also used for counselling and both counsellors and students have appreciated the calming reflecting atmosphere the room creates.

Mr J Ditchburn and Mr A Medhurst





# PARENT/CARER UPDATE

Guilsborough Academy Approved Uniform Supplier

### tailormade

#### **HOW TO BUY** SCHOOL UNIFORM

Online AVAILABLE NOW In Store NEW SHOWROOM

www.tailormadeschoolwear.co.uk

To ensure delivery before the start of term



**BUY EARLY** 

**AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT** 

use your camera to scan the take you straight to the Guilsb

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Tel: 01327 311125 sales@tailormade-online.co.uk





#### PLEASE SUPPORT TODAY!!!

Thanks to the 82 supporters, **Guilsborough Academy PTA** is in the top 50% of causes on easyfundraising!

easyfundraising partners with over 7,500 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.



https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/guilsboroughacademypta

Please join today and Guilsborough Academy PTA will get a £5 bonus!







We've now been commissioned by West Northamptonshire Council to offer Vaping Awareness Training to Professionals as well as Parents and Carers of young people who are concerned about vaping, these sessions are all online via Zoom and are FREE.

The dates and times are below.

#### Title: Vaping Training for Professionals working with Young People

Date: Fri, July 12, 2024
Time: 0930am - 0130a

Time: 09.30am - 01.30pm Closing date: 00.30 on 10/07/2024

Booking Link <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910553017587?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910553017587?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>

#### Title: Vaping Training for Professionals working with Young People

Date: Fri, August 02, 2024 Time: 09.30am - 01.30pm Closing date: 00.30 on 31/07/2024

Booking Link <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910519587597?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910519587597?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>

#### Title: Vaping Awareness for Parents & Carers of Young People

Date: Tues, July 02, 2024 Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Closing date: 00.30 on 29/06/2024

Booking Link <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/803816856857?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/803816856857?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>

#### Title: Vaping Awareness for Parents & Carers of Young People

Date: Tues, July 16, 2024 Time: 7.00pm – 8.00pm Closing date: 00.30 on 13/07/2024

Booking Link <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910552165037?aff=oddtdtcreator">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/910552165037?aff=oddtdtcreator</a>

# VAPING PREVENTION OFFER



### VAPING PREVENTION OFFER

#### **ASSEMBLIES**

To provide informative platforms for discussing vaping risks and healthier alternatives, including positive coping strategies.

#### STAFF WORKSHOPS

To provide staff with the relevant information and intervention skills for delivering brief interventions with young people.

#### YOUNG PEOPLE WORKSHOPS

To expand on the level of awareness and encourage reflection on behaviours. Behavioural change support sessions – utilising the cycle of change to facilitate behavioural change.

#### PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS

To provide information and education for parents including how to talk to your child about vaping and behaviour change.



# PARENT/CARER UPDATE

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and truste their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of m



#### **HEALTH &** WELLBEING

#### LACK OF SLEEP

#### LOSS OF INTEREST IN OTHER THINGS



#### CONFIDENCE SUPPORT & ADVICE

of parent said they though children spent to time in front of s

#### APPS CAN BE ADDICTIVE



LIMIT SCREEN TIME



### Top Tips for Parents

#### **LEAD BY EXAMPLE**

### LESS TIME MEANS LESS EXPOSURE are many risks associated with devices, s llying, grooming, sexting, viewing inapp

#### MOBILE-FREE MEALTIMES

#### REMOVE DEVICES FROM

### 52% of children aged 3-4 go online for nearly 9hrs a week

STATISTICS

82% of children aged 5-7 go online for nearly 9.5hrs a week

93% of children aged 8-11 go online for nearly 13.5hrs a week

99% of children aged 12-15 go online for nearly 20.5hrs a week

#### **ENCOURAGE ALTERNATE**

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety





A free event open to the public to engage with local organisations that offer mental health and wellbeing support.



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

### Wellbeing Trail

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THE 18-25 YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD'S YOUTH PROJECT

SATURDAY, JULY 20TH, 2024

11-3PM

DELAPRÉ ABBEY, NORTHAMPTON

RAFFLE + STALLS + SUPPORT + EVENTS + WELLBEING TRAIL

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION WWW.THELOWDOWN.INFO







We have had a number of athletic events this term and would like to recognise all those that have represented the school, well done to all.

The year 7's and 8's recently had their district event in Daventry with Kaden Pearce, Arabella Flavell, Lani Fleming and Sophie Caldwell all qualifying for the next round, the county event in Corby later this month. Joseph Clarke, Maisy Lauder, Maisie Wood and Jemima Spiller all won their events in the year 8 round.

Our senior athletes also had their county event recently, Bella Banks, Ernst Kisel, Maisie Wood and Peyton Almond all winning their events to qualify for the next round. Well done to Olivia Walsh and Lily Dedman for also representing South Northants at the event.

Another successful season!

Mr K Woolridge
Assistant Principal





Exciting news for Year 8 students! Long Buckby Rugby Club is on the lookout for some talented Year 8 players (currently aged 12-13) to join our squad for the upcoming U14 season in 2024/25.

Please email <u>u14@lbrfc.co.uk</u> for more information or to arrange coming along to a training session.



2023/24 SAINTS CUP CHAMPIONS 2023/24 MAIDWELL HALL 7's RUNNERS UP 2023/24 MARKET BOSWORTH 10's CHAMPIONS

FRIENDLY TEAMMATES • QUALIFIED COACHES • EXPERIENCE PREFERRED (BUT NOT ESSENTIAL)

EMAIL U14@LBRFC.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION