

26 APRIL
2024



PARENT / CARERS NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL BLOG

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the long Easter break.

The final push is certainly under way in readiness for the exam season, with the first of the exams for GCSE and A-levels commencing this week. Across departments, we have been running a number of revision sessions to offer students additional support to revisit content and key topics.

May I take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best of luck, we are impressed with the work ethic of many students and commend their dedication and determination.

It is also important we remind students to take breaks and look after their Mental Health and Wellbeing during what can be an incredibly stressful time. We encourage parents/carers to sign-up to the parent/carer workshops we have been running, to work with us on how to best support their young people.

Since the start of Term 5, we have had a busy couple of weeks. Year 12 enjoyed a Geography trip to Snowdonia and our Celebration assemblies kicked-off on Monday, with the first of our Principal awards being awarded as part of our rewards system Empowered. These experiences are so important for our students and offer learning and recognition beyond the classroom environment.

As the better weather approaches, we will enable our students to access the field during lunchtimes. We are very fortunate to have such wonderful outside space.

Thank you for your ongoing support in Term 5.

Mr S Frazer
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary...

- 2 May : Iceland trip information evening
- 3 May : Year 8 HPV vaccinations
- 6 May : Bank Holiday
- 10 May : Year 13 last day
- 13-17 May : Year 10 Work Experience Week
- 20 May : SEND Parent Forum 5-6pm
- 24 May : End of Term 5



SCHOOL FIELDTRIPS

School Trips happening this month...

- 18-19 May : Bronze DofE - Group 2
- 20 May : Young Enterprise Regional Final - Year 12
- 25-29 May : Iceland Trip



ASSEMBLIES

- 29 April : National Walking Month
- w/c 6 May : World Red Cross Day
- 13 May : International day against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia
- 20 May : Rewards and Celebration



REPORTS/EXAMS/ASSESSMENTS

- 8 May : A Level German Speaking Exams
- 14 May : A Level Spanish Speaking Exams
- w/e
24 May : Year 9 Reports out and analysis

Protecting children from county lines

Please follow the below link to find out more...

[Protecting children from county lines | NSPCC Learning](#)

PARENT/CARER WORKSHOPS

Following the success of the Mental Health & Wellbeing Parent/Carer Focus Groups, we will be running some **West Northamptonshire Local Authority** workshops at the academy.

- Safeguarding Team. Online safety – Safeguarding children and young people online.
 - **Monday 3rd June**
 - **5-6pm**
- Educational Psychology Team – Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance.
 - **Monday 10th June**
 - **5-6pm**



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DEVELOPMENT PLANS - MONTHLY UPDATE - APRIL 2024

Leadership and Management

During the past month, Academy leaders have been continuing their work to ensure that all key vacancies have been filled. This is now the case. We welcome Mr Dickens (Head of ICT), Mr Francis (Co-Head of Year and Teacher of Maths) and Mrs Gretton (Assistant Director of English) to Guilsborough. Miss Billet has also joined the Academy and will be taking over from Mrs Holmes as Head of Music when she leaves at the end of the month. In addition, the Academy has restructured our Performing Arts faculty with Mr Jackson becoming our new Head of Performing Arts. I know there are already plans in place for school performances and increased opportunities for students to participate in the Arts.

The Academy has secured increased external support from a trained Ofsted inspector who is working with leaders to ensure effective Quality Assurance of our work. They are working with us to identify further opportunities for development. This external validation of our work is crucial, giving confidence that we are taking positive actions.

Quality of Education

Since the last update, we have been carrying out learning walks in a variety of classes to see the impact of the different strategies that we have been focusing on in our training. Students are being asked about what they have been working on previously and how the lessons link together. Alongside this, students have been asked about topics from earlier in the year and also where these link to previous years. In many of our subjects, topics spiral from year to year increasing in depth and complexity and it is important for our students to understand how these develop. After the Easter break, we will be holding our final training session looking at strategies around the chunking of material, ensuring that the volume of information provided is manageable including different strategies for students with a variety of needs.

Following on from a number of emails from some of our parents, we are also revisiting our homework offer as there are a number of areas where insufficient homework is being set or the homework is not as challenging as perhaps it needs to be. Subject leaders met with their teams on Monday 18th March and reviewed this. Moving forward, homework should be set more frequently with some being consolidation work and some providing greater stretch and challenge.

Behaviour and Attitudes

We have been pleased with the positive student and parent/carer voice that we have received since launching the Wednesday Weekly Wheel, where students have the chance to win 3 x £10 Amazon vouchers for their conduct in the previous week. Specifically, 100% attendance, no negative points and ≥ 5 positive events. The student voice gathered has praised the reachable goals and the chance to aim for something new each week. Additionally, we are thrilled that 86% of Years 7-11 have achieved at least their Form Tutor award as part of the Academy's 'EmpowerED' rewards system. This is a real achievement and we look forward to the final three celebration assemblies of academic year where 'points mean prizes' and the chance to win an iPad Mini.

To support students to fulfil their potential and 'The Guilsborough Way', we are developing a system that monitors students' conduct (positive and negative behaviour, attendance and punctuality) on a fortnightly basis to inform interventions that support improvement. Specifically, levels of mentoring and SMART targets that will promote discussions between Form Tutors, students and parents/carers on how to maximise learning opportunities by upholding the Academy's standards. Further details will be shared in due course and will be delivered to students through Registration periods next term.

Personal Development

Throughout Term 5, 'The Guilsborough Way' has continued to develop areas within the overall culture and values of the academy. This has included students working on the language they use towards each other, understanding how such words and name calling can have a long term impact, and also participating in the 'show racism the red card' campaign. This was a national project aimed at raising awareness of racism and the negative impact this can have on society and in schools. Students were offered the opportunity to be creative and make posters, write songs or poetry and even designing football boots or clothing to highlight the importance of 'showing racism the red card'.

Our LGBTQ student voice group have also been working hard planning and leading whole year assemblies and they will also be leading staff training in Term 6 to highlight our values, inclusion and equality at the academy. We will also have an external visitor in from In2People, in Term 6. In2People visit schools and talk about current topics which are affecting young people, their presentations will focus on anti-racism, respect and diversity.

CURRICULM UPDATE

On the 13th March, along with one of my A-Level History classmates, I was lucky enough to get the opportunity to visit Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland. We arrived at the airport at 4:30am and were back at 11:30pm so to say it was a whirl wind trip would be an understatement but yet it proved to be a day I would never forget.

Auschwitz itself was overwhelming and confronting and seeing the sheer size of Birkenau was equally shocking but it was hearing the testaments and seeing the photos of people who were taken to the Camp, that was arguably the most important part of the trip. We also got to hear a talk from a Holocaust survivor named Janine who told us her own story which was a true privilege.

I have written a poem which hopefully expresses a little of what it was like visiting Auschwitz.

I wrote it thinking about a tiny pair of pink dungarees that were on display and how it made me feel.



POEM BY ORLA HAND PINK OVERALLS

A pair of overalls lie behind clean glass;
pink: the colour of rosy cheeks and spring flowers
fresh from the earth.
Small, a slice of innocence in this bleak place that is
filled with belongings that have no owners.
I think of my family;
my little sister, her head a halo of golden curls,
and suddenly she is wearing pink overalls.
I shake my head.
Two children seem to blur together in front of me,
Similar in almost every way.
Except, one is called to fondly, the other is nameless;
One will grow old and one never got the chance.
Here it feels as though time has stood still.
Death claims to every surface,
And yet, the birds still sing.



LGBTQ+ INCLUSIVE CLUB



The LGBTQ+ inclusive club runs every Tuesday during lunchtime in the 'base'.

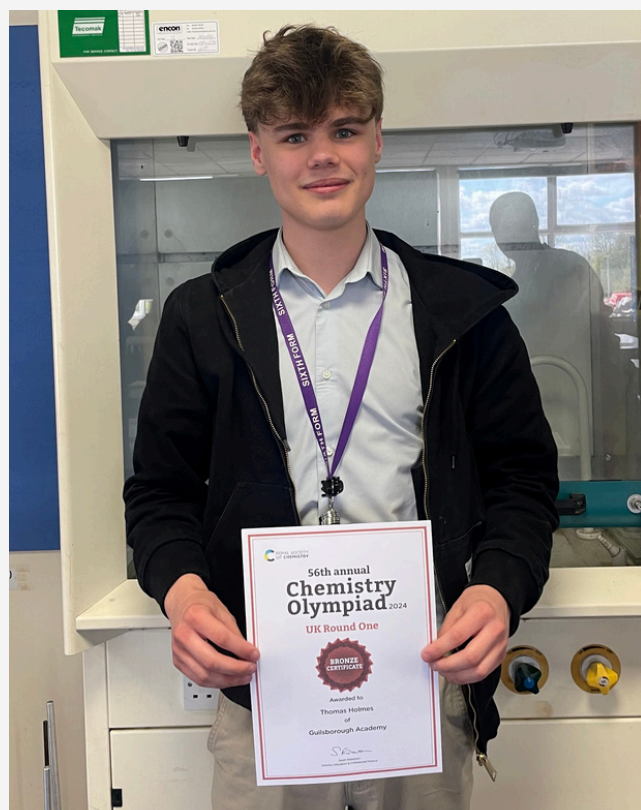
All are welcome.

We will be planning some activities and looking at good causes we can support.

Miss J Runiewicz
Assistant Head of Year 8

CONGRATUATIONS

Congratulations to Tom in Year 13 for achieving bronze in the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad competition.



PROM / BALL LOUNGE

Last chance to donate any pre-loved ball gowns, formal dresses, suits, bags or accessories.



GUILSBOROUGH ACADEMY PROM / BALL

Have you something gorgeous to donate?

Pre-loved ball gowns, formal dresses, suits, bags or accessories are being collected for Year 11 and 13 students to attend their prom and give them an opportunity to re-use and up-cycle and attend their magical milestone in style.

Please drop items to reception, all sizes and styles welcome.

DROP OFF BY THURSDAY 2ND MAY *Thank you!*

Please drop items to reception by Thursday 2nd May.

Prom Lounge will be open to Year 11 and Sixth Form Students during lunchtime on Friday 3rd May in the Community Room.

Thank you.



Guilsborough Academy Prom/Ball Lounge

Year 11 and Sixth Form Students please drop in and view / try on some new / pre-loved formal dresses, ball gowns and suits giving you the opportunity to re-use and up-cycle and attend your magical milestone in style.

Please pop in to the Community Room (bottom of A Block) during lunchtime on Friday 3rd May.



If you would like to share with us, any sporting news, please email to info@guilbsborough.northants.sch.uk

Thank you

Year 9 rugby team

The Year 9's played another game recently against Caroline Chisholm School.

In a hard fought game they lost narrowly by one try, some grit and determination kept them in the game up until the final whistle in a game that saw the score swing back and forth.

Well done to all involved and it is nice to see the squad growing week by week, in both numbers attending but also their team spirit and enthusiasm.

Well done.

Year 11 Rugby District Final

Thank you to everyone that came to support the Year 11 Rugby team in their recent District Cup Final at Long Buckby Rugby Club. In a hard-fought match against a strong Wollaston team, we were on the wrong end of the scoreline and suffered a loss. The boys were committed until the final whistle and never gave up, scoring a couple of excellent try's in a 34-12 loss. This score does not reflect how close the game was for the majority of the game and the opposition coach was extremely impressed by some of the Guilbsborough teams play.

It was tricky conditions with the wind and slope of the pitch playing an important part in some of the struggles the team found themselves in, they never gave up though and battled throughout. This is a team full of spirit and enthusiasm with a number of strong players and I wish them well on their future Rugby careers.

Well done to all that played and a special thank you to LBRFC for their support this year. We have developed some excellent relationships over the last year and very much appreciate the support of their coaches.

Mr K Woolridge
Assistant Principal

Long Buckby RFC Under 13's

Congratulations to the LBRFC team, 14/18 of whom were students from Guilsborough Academy.

Well done.

Mr Woolridge
Assistant Principal



Long Buckby RFC

14h · 🌐

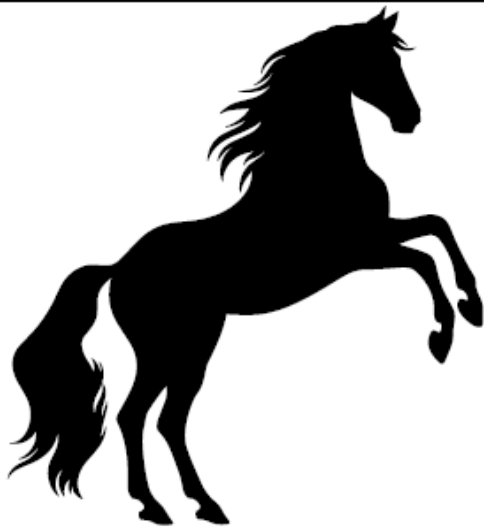


Double Triumph: Long Buckby Under 13's Rugby Team Strikes Gold Again At The Northampton Saints Clubs Cup!

Long Buckby Under 13's Rugby Team is on fire! 🏆🔥 After their sensational win at the Market Bosworth 10 A-Side Festival last weekend, they've gone and conquered the Northampton Saints Clubs Cup Competition as well! Once again remaining undefeated against tough rivals from Norfolk, the West Midlands, Cambridgeshire, and closer to home. Huge congrats to the players, coaches, and the incredible support from parents. Keep pushing Long Buckby RFC! 🏆🌟
#LongBuckbyRFC #NorthamptonSaints #NorthamptonSaintsCommunity #JuniorRugby #Champions"



CALLING ALL EQUESTRIANS



Calling all equestrians

There has been some interest in the school forming an Equestrian Club to compete in the NSEA inter-school equestrian competitions.

**This would be predominantly out of school hours and at weekends or during the school holidays. Students would be responsible for arranging their own transportation to any training/events and would need to be accompanied by a parent/carer. Please visit the NSEA website for more details on the competitions
<https://www.nsea.org.uk>**

If you currently ride and would potentially like to represent the school at these events please, please email Mr Woolridge (Woolridge@guilbsborough.northants.sch.uk) or Mrs Goode (lgoode@guilbsborough.northants.sch.uk) to register your interest.