Friday 15 December 2023

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Principal's Blog

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term at Guilsborough, I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents/carers for their time and enthusiasm in helping make this a successful term.

We have received much positive feedback about the new rewards system 'Empowered'

and how we are focusing on recognising the positives. We have ended this term with lots of positivity by embracing the festive period and I look forward to the students channelling this positivity when they return in the New Year.

On behalf of all of the staff and trustees, I wish you and your families a happy, restful and safe Christmas.

Mr Frazer Principal



Dates to Remember:

18 December

19 December

20 December

03 January

11 January

15 January

24 January

Year 12 Art Trip

Year 7 Bowling Trip

Stratford, London

HOLIDAYS

Back to school

Year 12 Geography Trip to

I Think You Should Know

Ithinkyoushouldknow@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

This email address has been established to encourage students to report incidents and issues they may feel uncomfortable raising face-to-face. The emails are only accessed by Mr Woolridge who then liaises with key staff to take appropriate action to address the

concerns raised.

10 11

SCHOOL BREAKS UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS

Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30-7pm

(in school, further details to follow)

SEND Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm

Year 12 University of Lincoln Business

The Guilsborough Way

As a reminder, we have 4 key expectations that we call 'The Guilsborough Way' and these are:

- 1. Attend all lessons on time
- 2. Wear the correct uniform
- 3. Have the correct equipment
- 4. Use appropriate language

Assemblies - Term 2/3

18 December	International Migrants Day
03 January	New Year Resolutions —
	The Guilsborough Way
08 January	Wellbeing and Fitness
15 January	Safeguarding

Reports / Assessments / Exams

18/19 Dec Yr13 Drama Practical Exam

w/c 22/01 Year 13 Reports out

26/01 Year 13 Drama Practical Exam

Attendance

We have a duty to ensure that we are communicating clearly regarding the attendance of our students and the importance of good attendance (equal to or greater than 96%). Students who attend school regularly achieve well and those who do not attend regularly achieve lower grades and make less progress. This is evident in both national and Academy data.

Attendance (%)	Outcomes compared to their peers
95+	Half a grade higher in each subject
90 – 95	Equal grades
85 – 90	Half a grade lower in each subject
80 - 85	Three quarters of a grade lower in each subject
Less than 80	One and a half grades lower in each subject

Good attendance means...

being in school at least 96% of the time, which is at least 182 -190 days a year



Students who fall below 90% attendance are classed as 'persistently absent' and we are required to report this to the Local Authority. We are also required to take action to improve the attendance of those who are persistently absent.

Important information and ways to support improved attendance:

- If your child is absent from school due to illness, please call our absence line each day by 8.30am on 01604 749111, stating their full name, year group and reason for absence.
- Notify the school of medical appointments and where possible, arrange these outside of school hours.
- Family holidays during term time will not be authorised by the school.

Additional information:

Further information regarding the Academy's Attendance Policy and its approach to promoting attendance can be found on our website **Guilsborough Academy - Attendance**.

Useful help guide:

It can be difficult to decipher when to keep your child off school due to illness and the NHS guide provides helpful information <u>Is my child too ill for school? - NHS (www.nhs.uk)</u>

As a reminder, attendance and punctuality forms part of our Guilsborough Way to:

- 1. Be on time and attend all lessons
- 2. Use appropriate language
- 3. Wear uniform correctly
- 4. Have the correct equipment

Who can you contact to discuss your child's attendance?

- Family Support Worker Mrs Malcolm jmalcolm@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
- Attendance Office Miss Bryan sbryan@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk
- Your child's Form Tutor
- Your child's Head of Year

Safeguarding

Working in partnership

During this term we have been working closely with Northamptonshire Police and are delighted to have had a number of visits from PC Rock and PC Tyers.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed asking them about their experiences and different aspects of their job.

We will be working in conjunction with the Police and a range or external agencies to hold a number of awareness events in the New Year.

Our focus will be around how to keep safe and will explore the dangers of knife crime and substance misuse.

As part of this work the K9 Deployment team and drug detection dogs will be visiting the school.

Child-on-Child Abuse Policy

Our number one priority is keeping your children safe at school.

As part of my role as Designated Safeguarding Lead I recently held assemblies with all year groups to share information around what is meant by child-onchild abuse.

Identifying factors and methods to report concerns or seek support were a strong theme throughout the presentation.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share two key documents with you.

Child on Child Abuse Policy Child Friendly Child on Child Abuse Policy

Child Exploitation Awareness

Please follow the link and watch the short film highlighting the signs to look out for regarding Child Exploitation.

I'm Being Exploited - New film launched to tackle Child Exploitation - Northamptonshire Safeguarding Children Board (northamptonshirescb.org.uk)

Mrs E Phipp Senior Safeguarding Assistant Principal – Inclusion & Student Wellbeing e-cigarettes - West Northamptonshire Council has produced a series of resources to help parents/carers and schools discuss the health implications for young people using e-cigarettes. The below leaflet is designed to support parents/carers with these conversations.



conversations with their children about vaping

WHAT ARE THE CONCERNS WITH VAPING AND CHILDBEN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

Most children and young people

don't vape or smoke. However, in

2022 the number of 11-17-year-olds

In Creat Britain currently using vapes

rose to 7% compared to 4% in 2020.

Whilst this increase is concerning.

It is important to note that most

regular vaping mainly confined

to children who currently smoke

The increase in youth vaping has

coincided with the arrival on the UK

market of a new category of cheap

and attractive disposable vanes that

have been promoted extensively or social media. We are working hard

have proven particularly popular with children and young people and

nationally and locally to address

these issues

HOW DO VAPES HELP

SMOKERS OUIT?

vaping is experimental, with

or have done in the past.

device to inhale vapour derived from a heated liquid. The main ingredients are vegetable glycerine and propylene givcol, but most e-liquids also contain nicotine, which must be no more than 2% or 20mg per ml, as well as

Vaping is the use of an electronic

and sweeteners SMOKING VS VAPING

small amounts of flavourinos

WHAT IS VAPING?

Smoking is much more harmful than vaping. Tobacco smoke contains carbon monoxide and tar, a sticky soup of around 250 toxic chemicals 69 of which are known to be carcinogenic, causing disease, disability, and early death



Short-term effects can include: coughing

Long-term effects are

as vet. unknown.

headaches dizziness, and sore throats.

Like nicotine patches and gum vapes containing nicotine are a useful aid to guitting as they deal with the cravings smokers get when they try to stop. Nicotine vapes are proven effective and have become the most popular quitting aid for smokers in recent years. However vapes are not recommended for non-smokers, particularly children

HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT VAPING

Find the right moment when you see someone vaping, walk past a vape shop or see advertisements.

Ask questions what do they think about vaping? Do they know people who vape? Why do they think people vape?

Listen to them learn from them, but also use your knowledge to help them understand the facts and that vapes are not harmless.

Talk about your expectations explain your concerns and tell them why you don't want them

to vape or smoke and to make clear that although neither are recommended, smoking is the far greater risk.

containing nicotine, like tobacco,

are age restricted. It's illegal to sell

them to under ISs and for adults.

to buy them on their behalf.

If you know of anyone who

does sell vanes or tobacco.

asa.org.uk

illecially you can report them

to trading standards through

the Citizens Advice online portal

citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer

Advertising of all tobacco products

Let them know that you care about them explain that those who knowingly sell vapes to under 18s don't care who they sell to and they are just interested in making money

Talk about the different reasons why children may

vape give examples such as wanting to fit in, curiosity, stress Talk through effective ways to respond if they ever feel pressured to try it and practise responding together.

If your child is vaping try to understand why they are vaping by asking questions like "What do you enjoy about vaping?" Or "How does vaping make you feel?". Understanding this might help you to understand their needs and discuss other ways to meet those needs.

THE LAW AND VAPING Vapes and vaping products For more information about vapes

and stopping smoking, Visit the West Northamptonshire website westnorthants.gov.uk/stopsmoking

Children and Young people can find out more information or vaning on the FDANK website talktofrank.com/drug/vapes

Or read the ASH Briefing ash.org.uk/uploads/ASH-brieffor-local-authorities-on-youthvaping.pdf



JON'T SMOKE? DON'T START TO VAPE

Festive Fiesta - Christmas Concert

The evening of Wednesday 13 December saw all our talented Guilsborough

Academy musicians performing to a packed audience of parents, grandparents, family members, and school staff.

With a programme full to the brim of both festive and secular music, we heard performances from the school Wind Band, Choir, Rock Academy, String Group, and Festival Band. Thirteen students volunteered to perform solo items, many of them for the very first time. Every single student performed superbly.

It is an absolute privilege to work with such a fantastic, enthusiastic and committed group of young people.

Many thanks to our site staff, the tireless student stage crew, and all our wonderful performers.

The Music Department would like to wish everyone a lovely Christmas, and we are very much looking forward to making more fabulous music in 2024!



The RAP (Raising Awareness and Prevention) Project - knowledge is power

We are looking forward to welcoming the RAP Project to Guilsborough Academy on Tuesday 9 January. The RAP Project delivers a variety of RSE & Citizenship workshops to pupils. The workshops teach students in an age-appropriate manner, the laws defining sexual offences, consent and understand how social media and online pornography may influence attitudes, expectations, behaviours and body image. The RAP Project has worked with our Key Stage 5 students in the past and due to positive student voice, Years 7-11 will also benefit from their support. The timetable below shows when your child will participate in their workshop:

Period 1 – Year 11 Period 2 – Year 10 Period 3 – Year 9 Period 4 – Year 8 Period 5 – Year 7

Further information on their support can be found via their website <u>The Rap Project – Raising Awareness & Prevention</u> and should you wish to discuss this with a member of staff, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Miss G Keenes Vice Principal

Music For Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall

The evening of 15 November saw three of our students performing at the Royal Albert Hall.

Holly Godley, Emily Richardson, and Bella Godley took part in an extraordinary evening of music which was the culmination of the National Festival of Music For Youth. The students were part of the Northamptonshire County Youth Concert Band which took part in a collaborative piece of composition with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. It was a truly inspiring evening with an astonishing 800 musicians and singers taking part in two massed musical



performances at the start and the end of the evening, completed with fireworks and sparkly confetti.

We are very proud to see our students on such a fantastic national stage and at such a prestigious event.

Well done to those students involved.

Mrs D. Holmes, Head of Music



Autumn Festival of Music

The afternoon and evening 18 November had Guilsborough musicians busy again! The annual NMPAT Autumn Festival of Music was hosted at the Spinney Hill Hall theatre in Northampton. Two of our students were involved in the performances.

Many congratulations to the following students on a fabulous day/evening of performing.

Josiah Mount - County Junior Wind Orchestra and Jazz 3

Oscar Tyrell - County Training Brass Band

Youth in Concert

The evening of 12 December saw a good number of Guilsborough students performing at the Derngate Theatre in Northampton at the Youth in Concert event.

This was a fantastic evening of musical performances by all of the Senior County groups and the quality of performing was quite simply jaw-dropping at times.

A huge congratulations to the students involved:

Neirin Marshall-Cross - County Youth Choir and County Youth Brass Band

Holly Godley - County Youth Concert Band

Emily Richardson - County Youth Concert Band

William Speed-Andrews - County Youth Brass Band

Bella Gidley - County Youth Concert Band

Mrs D. Holmes Head of Music

An Autumn Concert

On Saturday 25 November, six pupils from Guilsborough performed at 'An Autumn Concert'. The concert was held at a church in Northampton and was a showcase for 40 students taught by Mrs Milner, our piano teacher at Guilsborough, and her colleague, Mrs Dawson. For some students it was the very first time that they had performed to an audience and they did outstandingly well, performing brilliantly to a packed church hall.

Many congratulations to the following students who have been awarded achievement points for representing the academy:

Bella Godley, Mariella Burditt

Xander Syers, Chloe Gearing

Korban Tear-Rogers, Josie Ward

Mrs D. Holmes Head of Music

Christmas Dinner Music Performances

Christmas Dinner day at school took place on 13 December. The Wind Band performed festive music in the Year 7 and 8 canteen, and the Festival Band performed in the Year 9 and 10 canteen as students tucked into turkey and all the trimmings.

Many congratulations and thanks to the students who bravely performed in front of all their peers - no mean feat when you are a teenager!

Mrs D. Holmes Head of Music

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<u>Student Artwork</u>

Matilda Sheldon in Year 9 submitted this fabulous artwork of her cat into the Rugby art gallery open exhibition and it was accepted.

Well done Matilda.

The open exhibition is on until the 3 February 2024

Miss Page Art & Design Technician



Christmas Tree Donation for the Sixth Form Centre



Jo Grey at Fuschia Pinks has kindly donated a real Christmas tree for the fourth year in a row to the Sixth Form. The tree takes pride of place in the Sixth Form centre.

Thank You



Eco News

The Eco committee have completed our environmental review of the school. From this we picked some areas to focus on this year:

- Marine this involves improving our water and reducing the use of plastics
- Biodiversity this involves improving the biodiversity both in and out of school
- Transport this involves reducing the number of cars used to transport students and staff to school





We have many ideas of how to make these improvements and other plans too. We have met with Mr Frazer and he is very enthusiastic about these ideas. We have already distributed over 50 plants to classrooms and we are having a doughnut sale before Christmas to raise money for bird feeders to put around the school. There are over 20 of us who meet each week and we would like even more people to join us either each week or with some if our projects. We meet Thursday lunchtimes in A15.



- Each half term car share if you drive to school. The 1st car share is Friday is 5 January. This will reduce carbon emission and pollution.
- Follow some of our Eco-friendly Christmas ideas.
- Feed the birds in your garden and take part in the RSPB big bird watch from 26-28 January 2024. If students send photos or screen shots of their results to Dr F Sheldrick, she will give them positive points.
- Encourage students to use refillable drinking bottles and reusable lunch boxes.
- We are keen to support local eco activities, so let us know if there is anything we can help with.





Our student guide was extremely helpful and polite. A credit to the school.

CARNEGIE CENTRE OF Excellence for mental Health in schools

I am delighted to share with you that Guilsborough Academy has chosen to work towards being accredited with the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools Award.

Carnegie School of Education based at Leeds Beckett University and Minds Ahead CIC have developed the School Mental Health Award to give schools and academies a framework for whole school mental health development. By embracing the ideals of the award, we are demonstrating a deep commitment to working towards excellent practice as we place the mental health and wellbeing of our pupils and staff at the core of our school / academy alongside our commitment to having a rich whole school culture where all members of our school/academy community can thrive.

I would welcome expressions of interest from parents/carers who would like and are able to work with us more closely by focusing on the competencies of the award. If you would like to register an expression of interest, please email <u>SENDAdministrator@guilsborough.northants.sch.uk</u>

We look forward to sharing how we, as a community, are further developing our practices in relation to mental health and wellbeing over the coming months. Further information about the award can be found on the Leeds Becket University website;

https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/schoolmh

Mrs E Phipp Senior Safeguarding Assistant Principal – Inclusion & Student Wellbeing



Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form

Thank you to everyone who attended our open evening earlier in the month. Here is a sample of some of the great feed back that we received following the evening.

If your year 11 child would like to join us for their post-16 studies, then please apply using the QR code below.

Applications received before 01/12/23 will be used to develop our timetable blocks.

The students in attendance were a fountain of knowledge, answering all of our questions wonderfully, they were so positive about their A-Level experience at Guilsborough.

They were a highlight!

Both current sixth form students and staff were fantastic, making the evening informative, fun and most of all, making my child (and myself) feel enthused about sixth form and the subjects on offer.

I was really impressed with the sixth form evening, it was great for my daughter and us to confirm Guilsborough is the right step for her.

students

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and

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Guilsborough Academy Sixth Form Applications (Sept 2024)



Christmas Tree Donation

Welford Christmas Tree Farm have once again kindly donated one of their beautiful Christmas trees for our main reception foyer. The tree can be seen here in all it's splendour.

Thank You

Narrative Alchemy in association with Welford Christmas Tree Farm present...

A magical 30 minute children's theatre play suitable for 3 to 9 year olds

performed in our Glant Tipl - please note: not suitable for under 3's. A heart-warming and enchanting 30-minute-long children's Christmas show filled with songs, laughter, and valuable

lessons about the importance of believing in oneself.





Welford Christmas Tree Farm

- Real Christmas Trees
 - Award Winning
 - Handmade Wreaths Reindeer
 - nemueer
 - Farm Animals
- Toasting Marshmallows

Café

Christmas Shop

 Open 7 Days until Christmas







SPORT NEWS

Year 8 Rugby

Over the last two weeks, the Year 8 rugby team have played their first two games of the season. In their first match they played Moulton, and after a slow start they found themselves 6 - 1 down at half time but in the 2nd half they came back strongly, taking advice on board and were transformed. The last play of the game saw Guilsborough score a try to level the scores and finish in a draw. Special mention to Joseph Clarke for a strong performance and JJ Eldred and George Tibble from Year 7 who played up an age.

In the 2nd game, Guilsborough were comfortable winners against Weavers School. This was a strong team performance and again, we had two more Year 7's step up to play, JJ and Eddie Gee. The final score was 13 try's to nil.

Mr K Woolridge Assistant Principal

Congratulations to the KS4

badminton boys, who convincingly won their competition, beating 5 other teams to be district champion's.

The boys displayed excellent sportsmanship and physical endeavor throughout the competition.

Miss S Boyer, Head of Physical Education



Year 11 Boys Football -National Cup Round 3

On Monday 20 November, the Year 11 Boys team travelled to Robert Smyth in the 3rd round of the National Cup. As a school we haven't been this far for some time.

The game ended 0-0 in regulation time, with a penalty shootout victory for Guilsborough Academy, resulting in an upcoming 4th Round match up against a school from the Coventry area.

Great effort lads.

Mr D Mills Assistant Principal Director of Sixth Form

District Cross Country Competition

Congratulations to the 25 runners who participated in the District Cross Country competition at Courteen Hall. It was a picturesque run and the weather stayed dry for the runners.

The following students finished in the top 20 for their age groups and therefore qualify for the county round on 20 January at West Glebe, Corby.

U15s

Florence L Jemima S* finished 9th overall Matilda S Peyton A* finished 2nd overall Ed S Aurello O

U17s

Heath W Raffi O* finished 4th overall Wayne K Lyall L * finished 6th overall Ben H * finished 7th overall Lydia F * finished 6th overall. Megan M * finished 8th overall.

U19s

Jemima L Arthur T

Miss S Boyer

Head of Physical Education





SPORT NEWS

Year 11 Boys National Cup Football vs BISHOP Ullathorne Catholic School (COVENTRY)

The furthest any Football team from Guilsborough have made it for a significant amount of time, saw the Year 11 boys hosting a school from Coventry.

On a freezing cold Tuesday afternoon, the boys put in the performance of the year to seal a 3-0 victory. Each player put in 100% effort. The defenders hard work was repaid, with 3 excellent counter attacking goals.

An unbelievable progression from the lads into the 5th round of this prestigious national cup.

It would be great to see as many stakeholders in the school support the lads in the 5th Round once the draw has been made.

Watch this space!

Mr D Mills Assistant Principal Director of Sixth Form



nal Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further quides, hints and tips for adults.

Snapchat is a photo sharing app for mobile phones and tablets. The app allows users to share images, videos and chat with friends ly to specific friends, or through a 'story' shared with their entir iend list, which documents the previous 24 hours. In a study, upchat was ranked the 4th most negative app in terms of having ar pact on young people's health and wellbeing, with children feeling that they can use the app Snapchat to "make you look pretty."

What parents need to know about

SEXTING

EXPOSING YOUR CHILD'S EXACT LOCATION

The 'Snap Map' lets you share your EXACT location in real-time through a map on the app. The user's location updates when the app has been opened on the device. There is a warning on the Snapchat rebsite about uploading images and videos to 'Ou Website about by blading images and videos to our Story' stating that "snaps you submit to 'Our Story' can still show up on the Map, no matter which location setting you choosel. When uploading to 'Our Story' your child's image or video could appear in "Search results and Stories on or off Snapchat -today or in the future."

ADDICTIVE SNAPSTREAKS

ent back and forth consecutively between friend The longer that snaps are sent between users, the longer the streak becomes. Furthermore, Snapcha ewards users who have achieved high Snap Streaks, by gifting emojis, adding incentives for users to keep the streaks. Children invest time into making their streaks as long as possible, which can put an incredible amount of pressure on both themselves and their friendships.

National Safety

THE RISKS OF SEXTIN

REPORTING A STORY, LENS SNAP OR MES

While Snapchat's gimmick is that all photos, video and text disappear eventually, users still have the capability to screenshot or record anything which has been sent to them. Users may sometimes forget that screenshotting is possible and send a compromising image or message to somebody who they think they trust. Due to 'Snaps' disappearing, (users can even send a one-second photo or video), Snapchat has become the choser platform for children and young people to send sexually explicit images or 'selfies.' Once a photo/video has been screenshotted, or recorded using another device or software, this can lead to further dangers, such as blackmail and cyberbullying.

It is illegal to make, possess, download, store and share sexual images, photos and videos of a person under the age of 18. This also includes any sexual images, photos and videos that a child may have taken of themselves. However, if a young person is found creating or sharing image the police can choose to record that a crime has been com but taking formal action isn't i the public interest.

EXTRAS TO MAKE YOU STAY

Aside from taking photos and videos, Snapchat has other elements to keep users coming back for more. 'Snap Games' is a feature within the app where users can play minigames with others on their friends list. The games function is easily accessed by tapping on the rocket button during a conversation. Another feature on the app is 'Snap Originals', which allows users to watch content created by Snapchat, celebrities and other accounts, including a mixture o

comedy shows, drama, news and more. These features are designed to encourage users to stay on the app, which may be quite addictive.



Snapchat's selection of filters and lenses are seen as great way to enhance your 'selfie game'. Although the filters are often created to promote entertainment and humour, using the 'beatify' filters on photos can set

unrealistic expectations and create feelings of inadequacy. Children may strive for admiration and appreciation by sending these 'edited' photos to their friend list. Judging themselves against other users on the app might threaten their confidence or self-worth



RESTRICT STORY

USE'GHOST MODE

IOW TO DELETE A MESSAGE

TURN OFF'OUICK ADD



https://netsanity.net/snapchat-parent-review/18T.com1Indep

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