



Welcome to the Wigston College Bulletin—April 2025

This term has been a whirlwind of activity! The Trust show We Will Rock You was incredible and we are very proud of the students who performed so well and the staff who work tirelessly to enable the students and the performances to be so brilliant!

The students who sat exams in January for Applied Science, Health and Social Care and Sport received their results and there were some very happy students.

It has also been a productive half term for Year 12 and 13 students, completing their final set of PPEs or their first. The insight and feedback from staff will support them to make sure any knowledge gaps or exam technique are addressed in the last 6 weeks before the live exams, which are in May.

We welcomed Challenge Partners to the College in the week of the 10th March; our visitors were extremely positive about our learning community, broad curriculum, and enrichment opportunities as well as being able to clearly see that we really do stand by our ethos of 'Students First'. They were impressed by how articulate our students were in the student panels and lesson explorations:

"Students feel trusted to make decisions and are in charge of their revision and have the autonomy to start later and finish earlier, however most wanted to stay on site as they value the intervention and if they stay, they can go and ask teachers directly if unsure about anything! They did not feel that it was a consequence to attend intervention or have additional supervised study as they knew they were being supported to achieve good outcomes".

It is most definitely a compliment when a visitor says that they wish their children could have attended a college like ours.

As we move towards the next term, we have the Sixth Form 'Sports Day' events to look forward to on the 9th April and we'll see some students during Easter break at the subject masterclasses. There is still so much to come before the end of the academic year, including; Leavers Assembly for Year 13, HE evening 17th June, Awards evening 19th June, Sixth Form Induction 26th June and students on 26th June, the Leavers Ball 27th June and HE Fayre at Nottingham University 2nd July as well as the final Trust performance of the academic year – Summer Fiesta from 25th to 26th June.

Wishing you a restful Easter Break and thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Ailie Pollon
Headteacher Wigston College

Sixth Form Update

I am sure most of you will agree that this term seems to have been quite a long one. That also means it has been a very busy and productive term especially as we get ever closer to and prepare for the business end of the year. There has been an incredible Trust Musical in the form of We Will Rock You for which we are supremely proud of all the talented Sixth Formers involved; we have had a second round of Year 13 PPE Results; the Careers Fair; Year 11 application interviews and Comic Relief to name but a few highlights.

Year 13 PPE Results and Final Reports

Just before the February half term our Year 13 students sat a second round of PPEs. Some of these were full papers, some were target sections or areas of papers that focussed on elements of the course subject staff felt would best benefit our students. The results of these PPEs, along with target and predicted grades have recently been shared with you as parents and carers. This report reflects the most up to date data giving the position of your son or daughter going into the last 8 weeks until the exam season begins. The clear message to students is that there is still time to make an impact in areas they feel they could improve. As we have said in the correspondence that accompanies the report, if there is anything you wish to discuss with your child's teachers please do get in touch. All students should be well into their revision timetable by now and preparing for those all-important end of year examinations. At this stage in the year students should be at full tilt in terms of their revision and use of independent study time.

Year 13 applications to university courses 2025-26

Student Finance is now open for students applying for Higher Education courses 2025-26. Go to <https://studentfinance.campaign.gov.uk/> for more information and a link to the online application form to be completed by both the student and their parent/carer.

Year 12 PPEs

Year 12 students are, as we are writing this, currently sitting their first round of formal PPEs. These exams are designed to see what information has stuck and been transferred to their long term memory and what still needs working on. The examinations cover everything they have learnt on their courses to date and the results will give a clear picture of where the students currently are. These examinations are vitally important for that reason. As we know, revision should be a constant process and certainly not something that should be left to the end of Year 13. There will be even more content to cover and master next year and it is important that this year's content is locked in as we move forward. We will be sharing the outcomes of the PPEs as soon as we can. As always there will be the opportunity to discuss results and outcomes with staff.

Year 12 students – considering university after A Level study?

We are now entering the phase where Year 12 students need to be planning and preparing for making their applications to universities in the Autumn Term of Year 13. There have already been sessions in the Life Skills programme to support students, including an overview of the Higher Education option and guidance on how to research courses. Coming up after Easter we have the following inputs:

- HE Information Evening For Parents (17 June)
- HE Fair in Nottingham (2 July)
- The University Admissions System (UCAS) explained (Life Skills lesson, June)

UCAS Workshop including a guide to writing your personal statement and logging in to the system (27 June). Students should continue to check Teams daily for information about university summer schools and other programmes that provide useful experiences to support applications and to seek out extra-curricular and super-curricular activities to bolster their applications.

University Open Days are advertised in College and students should also be looking out for these on university websites. We recommend students attend open events for any university they are seriously considering applying to.

Tutors will continue to provide advice and guidance to their tutees and additional support is available through our careers adviser and Mrs Edwards (Student Manager).

Year 11 Interview Process

The Sixth form Team have been very busy over the last few months interviewing a huge number of applicants from not only Wigston Academy but far and wide across the city and county, who wish to study here next year. It has been great to meet everyone and advise them about their choices for level 3 study. We have met some fantastic applicants who are eager and excited to join us at the end of the summer. As has been the trend over recent years we have seen an increase in the number of applications and an increase in the number of Year 11 students that are putting Wigston College as their first choice destination. This is really pleasing to see and wish all Year 11 applicants the very best of luck with their GCSE and level 2 courses.

Year 13 Leavers' Ball – Friday 27th June

A reminder that students must have paid the full amount of £42 for their ticket by Friday 9th May at the latest. The balance payments are via SCOPay and can be made in one transaction or in instalments.

Comic Relief

For Comic Relief this year we invited students to have as much fun as possible either dressing up in 80s gear or wearing red to show support for this very worthy cause. There was a hamper made up of all things red that was also being offered as a raffle prize. There was also a staff cake auction (cake created by our very own Mrs Pollon so we knew it would be amazing!) It was great to see so many students getting involved and more importantly donating and we are very pleased to say that our students raised over £250 for the charity. Well done everyone, a great team effort.



Trust Update: Following the departure of Mr Mark Mitchley in January, the Trust board have appointed Mr Mike Wilson as interim CEO and Mrs Christine Stansfield as interim Deputy CEO. Mrs Pollon and Mr Conlon will continue to lead our two schools as Headteachers.

DIARY DATES

SPRING TERM 2025

Easter Break Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

School Opens Monday 28th April 2025

May Day Monday 5th May 2025

Mid Term Break Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

School Closes Thursday 10th July 2025

Exam Tips

- **Don't waste time** – revise in ways proven to be effective
- You can't build permanent brain cell connections by cramming the night before an exam so you need to revisit information regularly- **the more often we are exposed to info – the more likely we are to recall it**
- As you process and **put info into your own words** – you engage higher order brain function – you will remember more
- Free recall – e.g. blurting or teaching someone a concept without notes is most effective

The need to hydrate- 2% dehydration = 20% loss of focus/concentration



Careers Update – April 2025

Planning for the future:

The local Careers Hub is working with schools and colleges in Leicester and Leicestershire to understand your experience of your young person's careers education programme. This survey asks some questions about you, your careers knowledge, and experiences.

Please fill in this short survey. Help us to ensure you have access to the required information at the best time to support your young person to make their next best step.

Thank you.



Wigston College - <https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/llep/wigstoncollegeparentsurvey>



Apprenticeship Fair – 20th March

Year 11 students were given the valuable opportunity to participate in the Apprenticeship Careers fair at City Hall, Leicester. Students were given a presentation by a representative from ASK, highlighting the different levels of career opportunities and how different qualifications can be achieved through this pathway. In addition, students were given the chance of an interview with 2 or 3 different providers.

Students found it a really valuable experience and have gained an insight into the different fields available for apprenticeship pathways in the local area as well as how to apply for different apprenticeships.

Performing Arts

Performing Arts have had a busy and successful year to date. We have performed three big productions so far this academic year. Our adventurous and hugely successful We Will Rock You has seen more than 60 students involved onstage, backstage and in the orchestra, and has been performed to in excess of 850 people. This has been the most demanding show in so many aspects and we are absolutely in awe of our talented students that rose to the challenge with perfection. We have been inundated with incredible feedback from staff, students and our lovely WAT Productions community that come and support us show on show.

We are about to commence rehearsals for our final production of the year. Summer Fiesta is a celebration of our outgoing students, it will be a culmination of Musical Theatre, Music and Dance, and we look forward to their performances with anticipation. We have students this year that have supported our choreography team and we are continually grateful to them. We are sad to lose such a strong cohort but thank them for all their endless support, dedication and pure talent, and we wish them well for their future careers. We are excited to see their next steps. We are thrilled with the number of new students that we have involved in Performing Arts and I am sure this will lead to many more successful and amazing opportunities for our budding performers.

Alongside this, we are hosting a talent show for KS3 students towards the end of the academic year. This is an opportunity for our younger students to showcase their own talents. We hope to have many acts and are really looking forward to the opportunity to support them and give them this experience. We will be hosting an evening performance where parents are welcome to come and support. This is our third year for WAT's Got Talent and we are very excited for this event which is supported by Heads of Year.



Summer Fiesta will be performed on 25th and 26th June. Tickets are available for this production and can be purchased through our website at www.wigstoncollege.org www.wigstonacademy.org follow the production ticket link. These can also be purchased from the Academy reception with cash or cheque. Please come and support the amazing students involved in our final production of the academic year. We would like to thank you for your continued support of Performing Arts and we look forward to seeing you in the near future.

I would personally like to thank our amazing Performing Arts team that have a significant input in our productions, without them these shows would not be possible and our students would miss out on wonderful opportunities. A huge thanks to Mr Roberts, Mrs Smith, Mrs Bradley and Mrs Hazarika.

Miss Watkiss - Head of Performing Arts



Help bring our school allotment to life!

We are thrilled to share that our school allotment has been freshly cleared and is ready to bloom! Now we need your help to turn it into a thriving space for our children to learn, grow and enjoy nature.

Whether you have a green thumb or have never planted a seed before, we welcome everyone to get involved. We have the tools and space – all we need is your enthusiasm! From planting and weeding to watering and harvesting, there's a role for everyone. Even if you can't help physically, donations of seeds, plants or gardening supplies would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteering in the allotment is a wonderful opportunity to spend time outdoors, meet other families and inspire the next generation to appreciate gardening and sustainability. For safeguarding purposes, all volunteers will need to complete an enhanced DBS check, but we can assist with this process.

If you would like to lend a hand or contribute in any way, please get in touch with the school. Let's work together to create a beautiful, bountiful space for our school community!

Thank you for your support – let's get growing!

