

# WIGSTON COLLEGE

## NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the College Bulletin – July 2025

It's incredible to think we are already approaching the end of another school year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your care, support and encouragement. You play a vital role in your children's progression and success.

This final term has been jam-packed with activity. From A Level masterclasses and final exams (which concluded on 20th June), to Sports Days and enrichment adventures like climbing Scafell Pike, it's been a truly vibrant end to the year. We've also been preparing our new Year 13 students, reaffirming Commitment to Learning and planning their progression. And the excitement isn't over yet!

One of the highlights of our year was the Awards Evening for our amazing Year 13 students, held on 19th June. It was a joy to celebrate with so many students and families and to acknowledge their hard-earned achievements. We wish every one of them the very best for the future, and hope their results envelopes on 14th August bring the grades they've worked so diligently for. We will be with them every step of the way! Sporting success was celebrated next at the Trust Sports Awards Evening on 3rd July, it was lovely to welcome students and families to celebrate with them and acknowledge our Year 13 leavers who have seen superb sports ambassadors.



On 26th June, we welcomed our new Year 12 cohort to an Induction Day in preparation for September. Students took part in lessons for each of their chosen subjects and enjoyed additional activities to give them a real flavour of College life. To build on this, they've been set transition work to complete over the summer, which can be accessed via our website. This should be brought to their first lesson in September.

We understand that some students may wish to change subjects. These requests can be made via email ([admin@wigstoncollege.org](mailto:admin@wigstoncollege.org)) or in person during enrolment. Please note that changes will be processed after Results Day and are subject to minimum GCSE entry requirements and class sizes. We look forward to welcoming our new students properly in the autumn and wish them all the best for their GCSE results.

Our current Year 12 students are also getting ahead, beginning their UCAS application journey with workshops on 27th June. We strongly encourage visits to university open days as it is the best way to make informed choices. On 2nd July, 70 of our students attended the UCAS HE Fair in Nottingham, meeting representatives from universities across the country.

There's a real buzz around College as we round off a fantastic year. The final Trust production Summer Fiesta was superb, the show featured performances from students across the Trust, including one last show from our talented Year 13 leavers.

The ever-popular staff vs Sixth Form football match also took place after College on 26th June—the event was well supported and enjoyed by all.

Finally, we celebrated our outgoing Year 13 in style at their Year 13 Leavers' Ball on 27th June at Leicester Tigers. It was a wonderful evening, the students scrubbed up well and everyone certainly had their dancing shoes on!

Thank you once again for your continued support. I wish all our students and families a safe, joyful, and restful summer break.

Warmest regards,



Mrs Ailie Pollon - Headteacher Wigston College

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

School Opens	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025
Mid Term Break	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025
School closed (Teacher day)	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
Christmas Break	Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January 2026

### SPRING TERM 2026

School Closed (Teacher day)	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
School Opens	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2026
Mid Term Break	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026
Easter Break	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2026

### SUMMER TERM 2026

School Opens	Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
May Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Mid Term Break	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
School Closes	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 2026

**Bank Holidays:** 25<sup>th</sup> August 2025; 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December 2025; 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026; 3<sup>rd</sup> April and 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026; 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026; 25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

# End and Start of Term – Information for Parents and Carers:

## Last Day of Term Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July

The Academy and College will close early at **12:15pm** on the final day of the Summer term, **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**, for all year groups.

Academy students are permitted to wear non-uniform on this day. However, we kindly ask that they dress appropriately and avoid dyed hair or clothing/accessories that could pose a health and safety risk (e.g. high-heeled shoes or long false nails).

Thank you for your continued support.

## Return to School Dates 2025/2026 Academic Year

Year Group	Date return	Start time/ Finish time	Meeting point
Year 7	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	8.35 am* to 2.55 pm	Site A Sports Hall
Year 8	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	10.20 am to 2.55 pm	Site A playground
Year 9	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	10.20 am to 2.55 pm	Canteen playground
Year 10	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	10.20 am to 2.55 pm	Site B playground
Year 11	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	10.20 am to 2.55 pm	College
Year 12	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August induction	8.35 am to 12.40 pm*	College
	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August <b>not in</b>	*lunch available 12:40-1:15pm	
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August – <b>normal teaching day</b>	8.35 am to 2.55pm	College
Year 13	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August – welcome back, <b>normal teaching day</b>	8.35 am to 2.55 pm	College
	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August – <b>normal teaching day</b>	8.35 am to 2.55pm	College

## Wigston College Fun Sports Morning

On Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> April we held a Fun Sports Morning. This is something we felt was really important for our Sixth Form community who have been working extremely hard all year, and this gave us a chance to blow off a little steam before the summer examination period. The event took place on our 4G all-weather pitch and it was fantastic to see the engagement, rivalry and spirit of all the students that took part or came to encourage and support the rest of their tutor group. The friendly competition helped foster some of the values we hold dear such as resilience and respect and it was great to see the smiles and the enjoyment that students got out of this event – even if they were smiling at their friends in a space hopper race. Even



the sun came out to round off the event. The Sixth Form Team would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all involved and to Mr Ashton for organising the whole event. We look forward to next year's competition already!



We would like to congratulate 13NAd as the overall points winners of the event and rewarded with a champions' reward breakfast.

# Under 18s County Cup football

## We Are the Champions!!



It is with great pleasure and pride that we bring news of our Sixth Form Girls Football Team. After a brilliant campaign the team managed to get to the County Cup Final at the prestigious Seagrave, Leicester City's magnificent and world class training facility. In the final we faced a worthy opponent in the form of Robert Smyth Sixth Form. The girls put on a fantastic display of teamwork, togetherness and skill which led to their 4-2 triumph and being crowned as overall County Cup champions. Here are some words from their manager and PE Teacher Mr Chalk who has guided the squad all season: "The girls have been a credit to the College and Trust this season. There have been games this season where they have played with just 10 players, against difficult opposition, but have always played with a smile on their faces and with enthusiasm."

I know we are a little biased, but we truly believe that this set of girls deserve to be county champions. They have been the best team throughout the competition.

Thank you for the staff who were able to come and watch the team in the final and also thank you to members of staff who have supported the team by allowing the players to miss an occasional lesson during the winter months when the nights were shorter."

We look forward to next season's campaign as this team moves from strength to strength.

## Student Leadership Campaign 2025

We almost can't believe it is that time of year when we will soon be saying a fond farewell to our outgoing Year 13 and Student Leadership Team. The process for electing the new Student Presidents and Vice Presidents began in earnest in early May. All interested parties were invited to put forward a formal letter of application stating their intention to run. We have to say that the letters received this year were all of a very high standard and included details on why the candidates wanted to run for this important position, what it is they would like to focus on and achieve if they were to be elected, as well as outlining the skills and attributes they possess that would make them an excellent candidate for the job. We had ten very strong applicants this year, which is great to see, and made for some tough choices for the student body when it came to casting their votes. The next stage of the process took place the following week during



Sixth Form Briefing, as the hustings took place and each candidate had three minutes to address the rest of the year group and outline their plans and reasons for wanting to be elected. It is a real test of character to be able to stand in front of such a large group and speak with clarity and passion about the issues they felt were the most important. Some students shared PowerPoint presentations outlining their vision and some cue cards, but all presented well and acquitted themselves admirably in a high-pressure situation – a good test of their leadership skills. Not only is student voice of real importance to our College community but a real driving factor in positive developments to the overall student experience. This is a good opportunity for our young leaders to hone skills such as communication, teamwork, respect, resilience, planning and time-management and these will be tested once elected to office.

Voting took place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May and this was a chance for all our students to consider carefully what the candidates had said and what they stand for and for them to exercise their democratic right.

After a vigorous and engaging campaign, we would very much like to introduce our Student Leadership Team for the 2025/26 academic year. We look forward to working with them.

# WIGSTON COLLEGE

## Student Leadership Team

### 2025-2026



<b>Ruby Campbell</b> Vice President	<b>Harkamaljot Singh</b> Vice President	<b>Tobi Akinduro</b> Student President	<b>Eesha Ajeesh</b> Vice President	<b>Erin Burton</b> Student President
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# Enrichment at Wigston College

## Student Experience

### **Reflecting on my time with the Canal and River Trust**

While I have lived near a section of the Grand Union Canal for most of my life, I would argue that I only truly began to experience it, or at least appreciating it, relatively recently when last year I made a habit of walking down it to clear my thoughts from the hustle and bustle of daily life. The sound of running water and the chirping of birds helped me to reach a state of peaceful contentment.

This habit would later inspire me to try to get more involved in the canals, so that others would be able to enjoy its benefits as well. I got my chance when the time for work experience came near, and with the help of Miss Martin, whom I am still thankful to, I was able to be placed at the Canal and River Trust for my work experience.

Despite the cold of winter, my work experience was fantastic. I learnt several things during this period; how to steer a barge, the anatomy of the locks along the canal and how to use a windlass (a tool used to open a panel on the lock to allow water out so that boats can travel). In addition, I learnt that small bats sometimes inhabit the cracks and gaps in the bridges along the canal and that you can identify if otters often pass by a place by looking for the remains of crayfish claws on the edge of the canal bridge (usually it's the edge furthest away from the water) from the Ecologist, Penny, whom I met on the last day of my work experience when we were looking at badger sets.

However, it didn't stop there, due to the fact that I became a volunteer, I was invited to join them during the Easter half term. During those sessions I helped replace the steps on Kings Lock as well as using a drill for the very first time to do so. Some of the steps were later made into a model locks, thanks to Miss Beeby's partner Paul. Furthermore, I got to help operate Foxton Swing Bridge, one of the only two swing bridges in the entirety of Leicestershire, as I am told.

Overall, being part of the Canal and River Trust has been such a wonderful experience for me, not only have I been able to help my local environment in a time where climate change seems like an ever-present weight, I have visited many places that under normal circumstances I wouldn't have seen and I have met several charming and welcoming people. To be part of the Canal and River Trust is to help preserve an important green space, to be part of a wonderful history and to be a part of and serve an inviting community. I consider myself incredibly lucky to be able to have such an experience. I must thank Miss Beeby for coming with me as well as Angela, Brian, and Mark and all of the volunteers for having me.

**Liam Paling, Year 12, reflections on the benefits of work experience, wider enrichment and volunteering.**



## **Enrichment Placement at Birkett House Special School**

I'm Kendra, a student at Wigston College and I previously attended South Wigston High School. I am currently studying Psychology, Health and Social Care and BTEC Applied Science in the hope to go to university and get my degree in nursing. The decision to go to Birkett House was made so I could gain an insight into the types of individuals I may encounter in my future position as a nurse where I will be able to implement the transferrable skills learnt during enrichment.

The whole process was supported by Mr Ashton who had contacts at Birkett House. He allowed me to converse with a member of staff working there on what times were best for me, dependent on my timetable, giving me the role and responsibility of obtaining the placement. Students may need a DBS check if they want to work around children or vulnerable individuals, this can be done through the College at no cost and was an easy and straightforward process.

I would encourage all new Year 12 students to start thinking about finding an enrichment placement of their choice, to bulk up their personal statement when it comes to applying to university and to learn new skills such as communication, teamwork and independence that can all be applied in any future work they wish to do. Whilst on enrichment some students may realise that the current Post18 pathway they are planning on will not suit them, so it is important to get a taster early on giving them time to re-evaluate the path they are heading on after Sixth Form. My enrichment experience has been extremely positive and has allowed me to hone in on the specific course I will be applying to after the summer and without enrichment I may not have made the right decision for my future! Not only this but it will really help enrich my applications for my chosen courses and can only benefit my chances.

**Kendra Clarke, Year 12, on the invaluable skills and insights on post 18 pathways gained from wider enrichment**

‘Within school, it takes work to get super curricular activities for our UCAS applications with all that is going on in our lives – trying to get to open days, part time work, revision and keeping up with our social lives. But you don't realise how important it is until you physically do it, and you get a feel for how valuable it can be.’

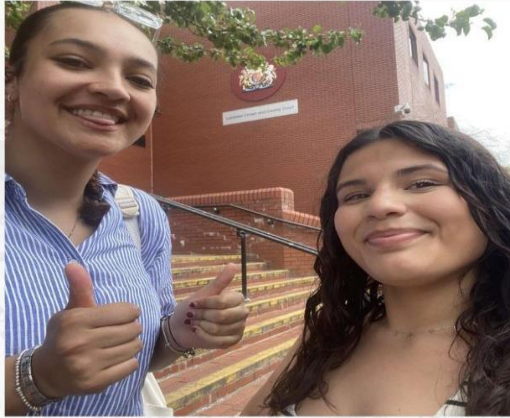
**Savai Robinson and Kayla Bridges, Year 12 Law Students, on their Super-curricular day at the Crown Court**





# GOING TO TRIAL

## OUR EXPERIENCE



On Tuesday and Thursday of the previous week, we took it upon ourselves to visit the crown court and were able to sit in the public gallery within the court room. We were lucky enough to sit in on a very interesting case- a man on trial for the trafficking of foreign nationals from France to the UK. As law students, this was a very fascinating and informative couple of days! It was engrossing to see how a real life court case worked, and to see how the different roles of the court go about their job within a case.

### JUDGE KEITH RAYNOR (A.K.A NEWEST MEMBER OF THE LAW HALL OF FAME)

Special mention to Circuit Judge Keith Raynor presided over the trial we witnessed, and we were very fortunate for this! He is the former vice president of The Kosovo specialist chambers in The Hague, and also tried former senior leaders of the Khmer Rouge in the courts of Cambodia from 2012-2014. (For those who are reading this and are thinking....what? Just know that this is VERY big stuff, and this guy is a pretty big deal)



## Wigston College Higher Education Evening

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of June we held our annual Higher Education Information Evening for students and parents. We welcomed representatives from both Leicester University and De Montfort University to speak to parents, carers and students about all things HE. We had two very informative presentations: 'How to choose the right degree course' including all the factors that should be taken into consideration, quality and style of teaching, how courses are assessed, location, campus and links that the university can provide. This was then followed by a presentation about 'Student Finance' including course costs, cost of living, student loans and how to apply for funding as well as all of the possible grants and other avenues of potential funding. Everyone that attended the event said how informative and useful it was as our students begin their UCAS applications. The programme put together to support students through this process this term is a comprehensive one, including further talks from universities about how to complete their applications, how

to create and write their personal statements as well as support from their tutors on our UCAS drop down morning that took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June. The aim is for all those applying to higher education to have their applications complete by the end of October, and of course we will provide one-to-one support all the way through this process. Finally, on Wednesday 2 July our students visited the UCAS HE Fair in Nottingham. This was a great opportunity to engage with the full sector of universities and HE providers first hand and learn all about their course offers and campus facilities. We encourage all students to think about booking any open days that they can throughout the summer so that they can really get a feel for whether the institutes they visit are the right place for their next step. All support and resources shared will be accessible to the students through the UCAS folder on MS Teams. Further support can be found here using this link:

<https://latest.lincoln.ac.uk/c/AQjgqxUQsMwbGLvEyjMg0efEBZXPGoBv18EJmvOnYVg97HWPZyi-AtS2dLQGwjM6lcZ>



## Nottingham UCAS Fair

The Nottingham UCAS Fair was a brilliant experience that gave me the chance to explore a wide range of universities from across the UK. The staff at each university were incredibly friendly and approachable, making it easy to ask questions and learn more. I discovered many universities I had never heard of before, which really opened my eyes to different options. Everyone took the time to explain their courses and campus life in detail, which was really helpful. I also enjoyed how easy it was to stay connected after scanning QR codes at different stalls, I received informative emails from the universities, which helped me keep track of everything I learned. Plus, there were lots of free souvenirs and materials to take home, making the day both informative and fun. Overall, it was a great opportunity to get a real feel for university choices and plan my future with confidence.

**Eesha Ajeesh – Year 12 student**





# Wigston College Awards Evening

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June we were very proud and honoured to host the College Awards Evening. This evening was a further opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work, progress and achievement that we have witnessed from so many of our fabulous students. The evening saw awards go to the very best individuals across all subject areas and extra-curricular activities. It was great for staff to be able to recognise and reward the efforts of our students and even better that families and friends could be there to witness the successes of these brilliant, industrious and most diligent students. It was a pleasure to be there and to be able to talk with both students and families after the event about future plans and next steps. We are going to be incredibly sad to see these students leave us but simultaneously incredibly proud as we know full well the bright futures, they have ahead of them. We very much encourage all our leavers (soon to become Alumni) to stay in touch and let us know how they get on and the great and exciting things they go on to achieve.



*Pic 1 Mrs Nemauro presenting the A Level Computer Science Progress Award to Favour Odunsi. Pic 2 Serene Atkins receiving the Stephanie Mallet Award for Speaking and Listening*



# Annual Staff v Sixth Form Football Match 2025

The much-anticipated Staff vs Sixth Form football clash took place on Thursday, 26th June, and what a showdown it was! The game was fiercely contested from start to finish, with both teams exchanging goals in a thrilling battle leaving the score as a 6–6 draw at full time.

With pride on the line, the teams headed into a nail-biting penalty shootout. Tensions hit boiling point as Mr Phillips, making his final appearance for the staff team, stepped up to take the potential match-winner... only to miss, forcing a penalty shootout and sudden death! Cometh the hour, cometh Mr Parr, who coolly slotted in the decisive penalty to secure the victory for the staff team. Mr Tandi, scored a brilliant brace and was rightfully named Man of the Match 🏆. I wonder who the victors will be next year?



## Year 13 Leavers' Ball

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June we held our annual Leavers' Ball at Leicester Tigers Stadium. It is always such a fantastic event and a chance for the staff to enjoy an evening out with our Year 13 Leavers as well as an opportunity for everyone to celebrate the hard work put in, and the lifelong friendships made whilst here at the College. There was the usual parade of flash cars dropping off students for their 'red carpet' style entrance, with lots of eager paparazzi there to record the moment and capture the incredibly stylish and sophisticated suits and ball gowns on show, and the students (and staff) really did scrub up well! The evening began with a buffet and bar and the 360 photo machine, but the main attraction was the dance floor with staff and students throwing shapes unhindered by the heat this summer has brought with it.

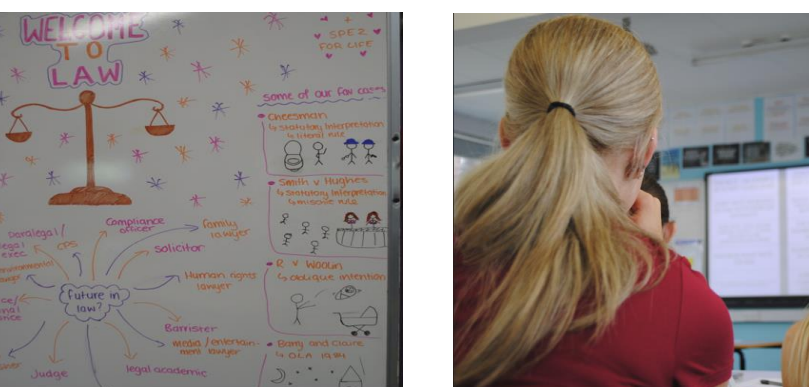
There were the speeches from the Student Presidents and the student nominated awards were presented. Although there were some tears from those who realised that this was going to be the last official Wigston College event, there was also a real sense of accomplishment and looking to the horizon and being confident in their ability to take on the challenges of those next steps. There was an excellent turn out from the staff which just goes to show what a personable and likeable year group these Year 13s have been. They will be sorely missed; we are incredibly proud of all of you and we wish you the very best of luck for A Level Day on 14th August.



## Induction Day for our Offer Holders

We had a fantastic day on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June with our Induction Day for Offer Holders. We have been really busy this year working through all of the nearly 700 applications we have received. It was great to be able to meet people during our interview process and even better to invite the successful candidates (Offer Holders) into the building to experience the expert teaching from our A Level / Level 3 subject specialist teaching staff. It was also an opportunity for our prospective students to come and witness first-hand the positive culture and ethos here at the College. Students were given the chance to attend a full timetable of their chosen subjects and really get to understand the courses and assessment methods they will be experiencing next year. We introduced students to our Student Leadership Team who also talked about the wide range of super-curricular, extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities available whilst studying with us. Students got to witness first-hand the smaller class sizes that we are able to offer and the positive impact this can have on their progress and achievement. We would like to thank all those that attended for their energy and conduct throughout the day. Many of our current students were here doing a sterling job as Student Ambassadors answering questions, welcoming people and being human signposts. The day went really well and we wanted to thank everyone that completed the feedback survey as the results of this were extremely positive especially about how welcoming our students and staff were as well as how well



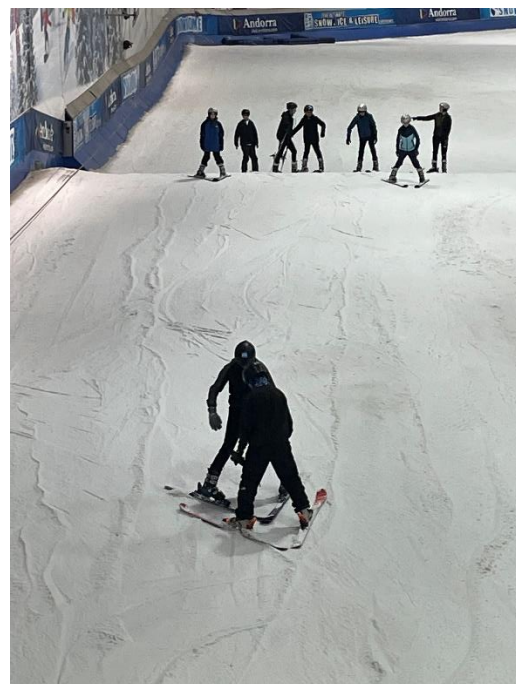
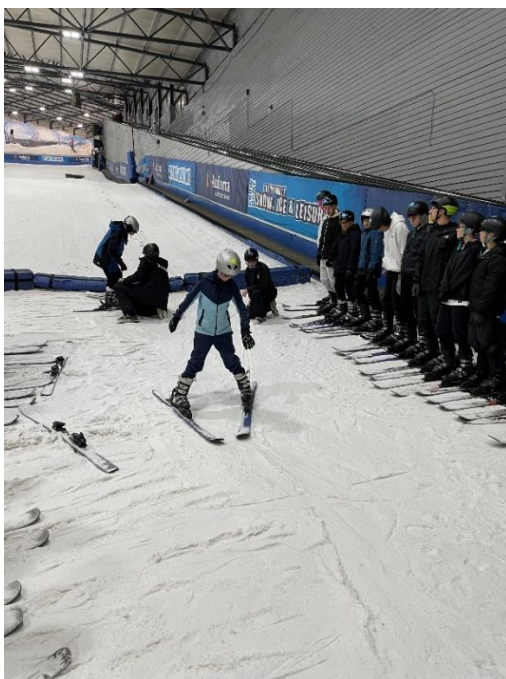






## Snowdome, Telford Trip

On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April KS3 students attended a session at the Snowdome in Telford. Students were shown the basics of skiing and by the end of the two-hour session all students had progressed enough so that they were all able to use a drag lift and then ski back down successfully. All students had a great time.



# First Aid Course

As part of the Sports Injuries Unit in the OCR Technical in Sport and Physical Activity qualification, students had the opportunity to complete the *Emergency First Aid at Work* certification. The full-day course combined both practical and theoretical assessments. Throughout the day, students learned essential lifesaving techniques including how to administer CPR, place someone in the recovery position, and respond to a range of injuries such as cuts and fractures. Students found the training to be an incredibly valuable experience. The qualification not only enhanced their understanding of injury management but will also serve them well in future roles within sport and coaching.



## Careers Update

### Year 12 – Careers Talk June 25<sup>th</sup>



On 25<sup>th</sup> June Year 12 students heard from Mike Brown who represents CIPS sharing information about the Procurement and Supply Chain industry.

We found out about the employment in this sector and the exciting opportunities available following a career in this area from scheduling and planning, freight management and procurement.

We also looked at the key skills required in Procurement including

- **Communication skills**
- **Influencing skills**
- **Stakeholder management skills**
- **Negotiation skills**
- **Sourcing/Planning skills**
- **Supplier relationship skills**

The Career Programme aims to support students in raising their awareness of sectors they potentially haven't heard of to widen their knowledge and help them make informed choices for their future.

If you are able to support the careers programme please contact [careers@wigstonmat.org](mailto:careers@wigstonmat.org)



## Year 13 – Results Day – 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025

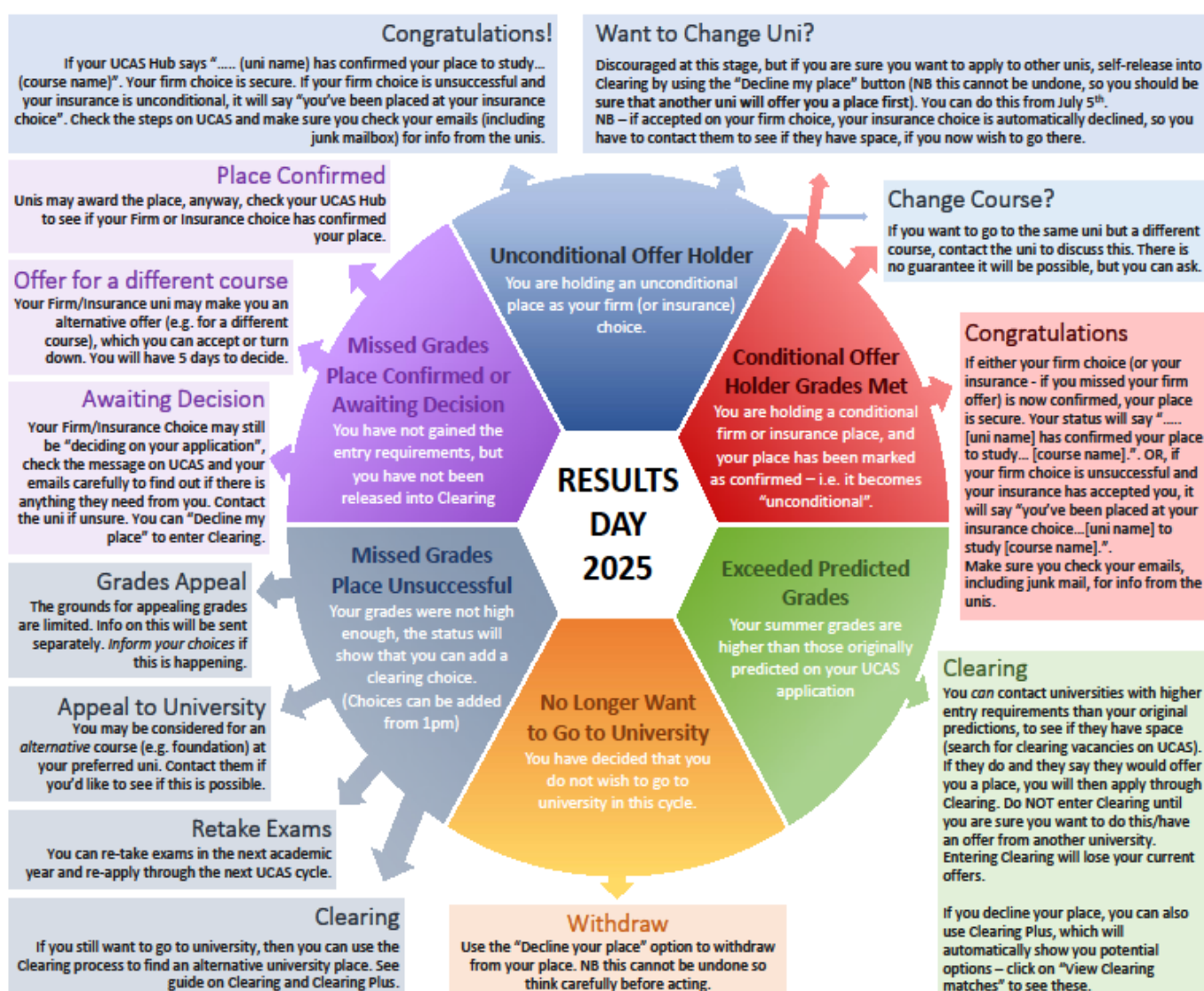
The Careers team will be available to support students when they collect their results. We hope to be congratulating you all and sending you off to celebrate the new chapter in life.

However, if this is not the case, the careers staff are there to support and help your transition. Remember, this isn't the end, it's stepping stones for bigger things!

There is more help and support available through the Careers page on the website: [Careers Home | Wigston Multi Academy Trust](#)

Here is link to The Parents' Guide to results day – 2025 - [TPGt-Year-13-Results-Day-2025-14.24.36.pdf](#)

For students applying to university there is a guide on what to do on results day included on the next page.





# Quotes from our Year 13 Social Scientists Exit Questionnaire

"I appreciated the structure and support in both Criminology and Law. The teachers genuinely cared and pushed us when we needed it. It wasn't always easy, but I walked away more confident in how I think, argue, and analyse — which is exactly what I wanted from these subjects" *Adar*

"it's been amazing and I've loved being taught by the wonderful teachers here!!!" *Georgia*

"That it was possibly the best experience I've ever had with teachers, the pure care and work that went into the crib sheets, the sociology booklets, the knowledge organisers and even the songs and poems. I couldn't have asked for anything better for my academics than the five teachers I had over the 2 years. Genuinely a massive thanks because that push and support was everything to me and everyone really" *Emily*

"Best experience of my time in education, taking criminology completely changed my plans for the future in the best way possible!" *Lili*

"Never felt more supported and in a safe space to speak up about any issues or struggles I'm facing even in general college matters not just specific subject help." *Alice*

"My experience with studying law, sociology and criminology at A level has been exciting and has broadened my understanding in different areas of these subjects in many different ways. The teachers have always been so supportive and have always gone up and beyond for my learning." *Gracie*

"As a subject psychology is very interesting however the content can be overwhelming sometimes. My experience studying it at Wigston college has been great with the staff bending backwards to offer support, advice and guidance on anything which I was unsure" *Ayman*

"I loved every minute of every law lesson." *Arish*