

WIGSTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the College Bulletin – December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the festive season begins and another busy term draws to a close, I would like to reflect on the wonderful achievements and experiences we have shared with our students. This term has been full of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, helping our young people prepare for the future.

One highlight has been the launch of our Sixth Form SEND support assistants. As part of an enrichment programme, trained students have been working with Academy pupils in Abington House, supporting mentoring, literacy and numeracy skills and attending lessons alongside them. It has been a rewarding project for everyone involved. In addition, a pilot group of Sixth Form students has begun supporting Academy pupils at lunchtimes as supervisors, giving them valuable opportunities to develop leadership and communication skills.

As festivities approach, our Charity Committee has organised a collection of food, clothes, shoes and toys to support Women's Aid, Action Homeless Leicester and the Royal British Legion. This is a wonderful way for our College community to give back locally.

It has been a productive half term. Year 13 students engaged well and successfully completed their pre-public exams (PPEs), took part in the UK Maths Challenge and contributed to numerous events including Charity Day, Remembrance Day, Culture Day and wellbeing activities. Year 12 and 13 students are also preparing for live exams in January in applied courses such as Health and Social Care, Science and Sport.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the annual Sixth Form Santa Duck Hunt, Festive Jumper Day, the Trust Winter Wonderland show and our Student vs Staff Festive Showdown Quiz on 19th December.

The dedication, commitment and hard work shown by both staff and students has been phenomenal. We could not achieve this without your continued support, and I thank you sincerely. I wish you and your family a joyful festive break and look forward to welcoming students back on 6th January.

Mrs Ailie Pollon



Mrs Ailie Pollon - Headteacher Wigston College



Year 13 Pre-Public Examinations

The week beginning the 10th of November brought with it the PPEs for our Year 13 cohort. These are a really good tool for both staff and students in so many ways. They give a good indicator of how much progress has been made since the Year 12 PPEs, as well as how they have mastered new content since their last examination and really pinpoint what they need to be focussing on in the run up to the all-important summer examinations season. The time between now and then is ever dwindling and will go very quickly, in fact there are just 20 College weeks until the beginning of the examinations in the summer. That is why it is crucial to take on board all the feedback from subject teachers and make plans of how to move forward towards their goals. We would also like to commend the behaviour and conduct of all of our Year 13 students throughout this examination week – they were superb.

Year 13 subject staff are now compiling reports that will keep you as parents and carers fully informed of the current state of play. These reports will be with you just after we return from the Christmas break and will include the following information: Target Grade, an up-to-date Predicted Grade, November PPE result, written comments from their subject staff as well as an update on Attendance and Punctuality. We will write to you in more detail when these reports are issued and of course, as always, if you wish to discuss any of this with subject staff or the Sixth Form Team then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Working together in the best interests of each student is a very powerful tool in the short time we have left.

Commitment to Learning

Commitment to Learning is essential to make progress and we are delighted to congratulate the students below who have been awarded the most commitment to learning points this half term. Well done all!

Year 12	Year 13
Poppy White	Hannah Spear
Francesca Chapman	Erin Burton
Lilac Smith	Emily Fincham
Eleanor Erswell	Demi Graham
Charlie Hind	Alexei Chapman
Kate Casey	Maya Extremera-Ravel
Jasmine Westwood	Kia Johnson
Mya Darby	Rebecca Pearson
Sotirios Mantzidis	Daisy Smith
Nell Howkins	Charlotte Hurst
Poppy White	Shyla-Denae Wilson
	Hannah Spear

Culture Day 2025

This term saw our students organise and take part in our third annual Culture Day. Our student led Culture and Diversity Committee has been working hard over the last few months to organise this fantastic event. Culture Day gives students a chance to celebrate and share their cultural heritage and appreciate the cultural diversity of our community. Students were invited to wear their cultural dress, make and bring in food from their cultural heritage. We were sampling jollof rice from Nigeria, spring rolls from Thailand, chocolate truffles from Brazil and much more.... (a real favourite of both staff and

students!). Alongside this our Tutor Groups completed research and created displays that highlighted different cultures from around the world. We were treated to a carefully curated playlist of music from different cultures to really immerse ourselves into and explore and share the richness and variety of all our cultures and backgrounds.

We were delighted to welcome some very notable guest speakers and performers who were able to join us and we would like to say a huge thank you to them all; Councillor George Cole former Lord Mayor of Leicester and the first African-Caribbean Mayor, Leicester's first ever Poet Laureate Akshay Sharma aka Mr Shay sharing his work, his journey and his beatboxing skills as well as some of his poetry and finally Dr. Camille London-Miyo MBE Research Associate for DMU from the Stephen Lawrence Research Centre who spoke about the importance of inclusion within our College and community. We also had a scintillating performance of traditional Sri Lankan Dance from one of our own Year 12 students. We love Culture Day and were so proud of our students and their organisation, engagement and leadership.



Charity Committee

Our student led Charity Committee have had a very busy time over the last term and have organised some great fundraising events. We started with the 'Sponge A Teacher' event (thank you to the staff that 'ahem' volunteered for this!). This was a really well attended event as you can see from the photos and the Committee managed to raise nearly £100 for YoungMinds, a mental health charity for

children, young people and their parents that aims to make sure all young people get the mental health support they need. Students and staff were also invited to wear yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day.



Following on from this the Charity Committee went on to organise a Pyjama Day to raise funds for this year's Children in Need Appeal. It was great to see so many students and staff get involved in what is a very worthy cause. We are also very proud of our students who always try to donate what they can and allowed the Charity committee to raise nearly £200 pounds.



ASSET - Be a Lifesaver Event

On Wednesday 15th of October, we welcomed back Nisha and Nick from ASSET which is the Adrian Sudbury Schools' Education Trust a registered charity. This is always a very hard hitting and poignant morning, Adrian Sudbury's story is one of determination and courage that has a profound impact on the lives of many and as it is shared with our students to advocate for stem cell, blood and organ donation through the R&BE (Register and Be a Lifesaver) programme. The programme aims to raise awareness and encourage young people to register as donors. We have been proud to work with this charity for many years and were very honoured that our partnership was recognised when the ASSET team presented our Student President, Erin, with a plaque as a testament to our long-standing relationship with the charity.



National Service of Remembrance – Ellie Miller Year 13

This year I was selected as 1 of 4 cadets from the whole of Leicestershire Police Service to go down to London to represent the Leicestershire Police Cadets Service within the National Service of Remembrance parade. I have been within the Police Cadets for 5 years and since I joined, I have been in my local parade every year where I have laid the wreath and delivered speeches at these events. During the parade I was able to go past all the King's Guards around the cenotaph and then go past the Duke of Edinburgh who was there to take the salute. This was a very special day and an honour to be chosen to and be able to represent Leicestershire at such an important event as we commemorate the contribution of British and Commonwealth military and civilian servicemen and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts. **Well done Ellie for being chosen to represent our county.**



UCAS Applications

Well done to all the Year 13 students who have already submitted their UCAS applications. The national UCAS deadline is coming very quickly, and we urge all remaining students to complete and submit their applications to us as soon as possible so that we can guarantee they will be processed in time. It is so good to see students getting their offers from HE institutions already and helps boost their focus and motivation as we look towards those final examinations, that are now just a mere 20 weeks away!

Dates for your diary

- Wednesday 17th December – Winter Wonderland Performance
- Thursday 18th December – Winter Wonderland Performance
- Friday 19th December – Festive Jumper Day
- Friday 19th December – College closed for Christmas Holidays from 12:20pm
- Tuesday 6th January – Students return to College.
- Wk/b Monday 6th January to Friday 16th January– Live examinations for Health and Social Care, Btec Applied Science, Sport and Physical Activity
- Wednesday 7th January – Year 13 Progress Meetings
- Wednesday 21st January – Year13 Mock Interviews
- Wednesday 21st January – Year 12 Criminology Controlled Assessment begins (2 days)
- Friday 19th December – Final deadline for Year 13 UCAS applications (The national deadline is Wednesday 14th January, however we cannot guarantee same day processing. Students should meet the internal deadline as above to ensure a timely submission)
- Early January – Year 13 written reports issued to students, parents and carers.

We are pleased to announce that following a national recruitment process, we have appointed Mrs Christine Stansfield as the new Chief Executive Officer for Wigston Academies Trust. Christine comes with a wealth of experience and skills having previously been a CEO in a growing trust. She is also a National Leader of Education. Christine will start her role on 5th January 2026.

Mrs P Munro – Chair of Trustees

We kindly ask for your support in being considerate of our local neighbours during school pick-up and drop-off times. Please ensure that you park safely and legally, avoid blocking driveways or pathways and keep noise to a minimum while waiting for your children.

Your cooperation helps us maintain positive relationships within the community and ensures a safer environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



Careers Update

Careers – it's so much more than just talking about jobs!

Click here to find out more about the careers programme at Wigston College

<https://wigstonmat.org/careers-home/>

University and Apprenticeship Fair

50 Year 12 students visited Northampton University for the University and Apprenticeship Search Fair. Students were able to talk to representatives from universities across the country. There were also a range of seminars for students to attend; topics including student finance and higher and degree apprenticeships. The university also offered tours to show students the facilities available. This was a great opportunity for Year 12 students to start thinking about their future plans and it was a very worthwhile experience for all involved.



Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 students have spent a week on a work experience placement. This has given them a valuable opportunity to experience the world of work and will help students with decisions for their future careers. Students have all developed their employability skills including time management and organisation and hopefully have been inspired with different career opportunities.

Performing Arts

As we enter the festive season in our Performing Arts Department, we reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term. Our Season Launch in October was a tremendous success, featuring more than 120 students who showcased their talents in music, dance and drama. The event also highlighted exceptional GCSE and A Level work in Dance and Drama. The level of skill, creativity and enthusiasm on display was truly inspiring.

We were also delighted to perform for a local care home in Aylestone (Lady Jayne Court), where 15 of our students shared festive cheer through carol singing. This meaningful community event is one we are privileged to participate in, offering a valuable opportunity for connection between our students and the residents, many of whom regularly support our productions. Students were impeccable and are a huge asset to the Trust; we are very privileged to have them all.



Looking ahead, preparations for Winter Wonderland on the 17th and 18th of December are well underway, and our students have been working with remarkable commitment.

I am pleased to announce that auditions for our 2025 production, *The Prince of Egypt*, have now concluded, and we have assembled an outstanding cast and ensemble. Rehearsals have already begun for what promises to be an extraordinary production, the premiere of which will take place here at Wigston Academies Trust, following the recent release of the amateur performance licence. To offer a glimpse of what's in store, we will be sharing a special preview during Winter Wonderland. Tickets for this and all upcoming performances are available on the Academy/College website.

Our department continues to thrive, with a range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities taking place. In addition, we are running a specialist workshop for our Year 9 drama students as we continue to nurture and develop their growing talents.

It is truly inspiring to see such enthusiasm and dedication from students across all year groups as they embrace the many opportunities available to them. None of this would be possible without the ongoing support of colleagues, parents and our wider community, for which we are sincerely grateful.

I am also pleased to share an update on our ongoing charity work. In October, we hosted a staff and community quiz night, a hugely enjoyable event that also supported our wellbeing provision. On this occasion, we raised **£536.79** for our chosen charity, **Wishes 4 Kids**.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and of Performing Arts. We wish you a peaceful, healthy, and joyful Christmas.

Miss Watkiss – Head of Performing Arts



Wigston Academies Trust Wreath Making Workshop and Christmas Market

On Friday 28th November, we held the inaugural Wigston Academies Trust charity wreath-making workshop and Christmas market. It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a community and the wreath-making workshops were a swift sell-out! Everyone who attended enjoyed a fantastic evening—learning new skills, creating stunning wreaths and meeting new people along the way.

We would like to extend our thanks to Oakberry Trees, Dunton Basset, for their generous support of the event.

The Christmas market featured over 15 stalls, all showcasing local crafters with no repetition, making it the perfect place to purchase unique, handcrafted gifts. Our chosen charity this year was LOROS, and thanks to the support of everyone who attended both the market and the workshops, we raised over £660 for this wonderful cause.

The atmosphere throughout was truly special, with many guests already asking to book for next year. We're delighted to share that planning is already underway!

A heartfelt thank you to all who supported the event—we couldn't have done it without you.

Ailie Pollon, Heidi Robinson and Louise Stone







Christmas Donations

16th December
Deadline

This Holiday Season, we aim to donate items towards those in need for the Christmas Holidays. Donations will be given towards Women in shelters, children in foster homes, veterans organizations to spread love and comfort during the holiday seasons. (Women's Aid Leicester, Action Homeless Leicester, Royal British Legion)

- . tinned food / packet food
- . Clothing
- . Toys/Games
- . Sanitary products/toiletries
- . Books
- . Blankets
- . Children's/babies clothes

A simple donation like these can help us give these shelters, foster homes and organisations a helping hand towards their cause.