



WIGSTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the College Bulletin – February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term has been hectic. After some shocking weather and what has felt like nothing but dark and dismal mornings, it is finally starting to feel as though the weather is improving and the season of lighter mornings and evenings is near. It is hard to believe that it is nearly half term and, on our return, the Easter break will only be five weeks away. The summer exam season will soon be upon us. For Year 13, this is a critical time, an opportunity for renewed focus and commitment to learning, making the most of both lesson time and the wider opportunities within the College so they are in the strongest position ahead of their final exams.

In this edition of the newsletter, you will find details of booster sessions running before and after College to help support students' progress and ensure they feel fully prepared and confident as we approach exam season.

We are awaiting the results of the Year 12 and 13 Cambridge Technicals, AAQ, and BTEC exams completed in January, which will be released in March. In the meantime, Year 13 are preparing for their second PPE week from 23rd February, while also ensuring they are meeting deadlines and completing any Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) to at least their target grade—and ideally above. This will put them in the best possible position going into the summer exams, for subjects with an NEA component.

We were extremely grateful to local businesses and emergency services for so generously giving their time on 21st January to put our Year 13 apprenticeship and employment students through their paces in mock interviews. The feedback has been superb and students were keen to share their own reflections; they gained a great deal from the experience and we are thankful to be able to offer such an invaluable opportunity. We are always keen to provide our students with enriching experiences, including talks from guest speakers. If you feel you could offer a careers talk, or something specific to one of our subject areas, a Q&A session, or another valuable opportunity to our Sixth Form students, please do get in touch. admin@wigstoncollege.org

Spring term is always one of my favourite times of year, as I very much enjoy meeting our potential new students. Those we have spoken to so far have been an absolute delight and have shown a clear focus on their next steps. Well done Year 11 you are really impressing us! In February we will also begin interviewing applicants from across the county, and we are very much looking forward to speaking to them all.

There is still lots to look forward to this term: *The Prince of Egypt* production, charity events, the excitement of UCAS offers, competitions, and of course the annual 'Chicken Hunt' before Easter, which both staff and students thoroughly enjoy. We are also excited about progress on the new building, which, weather permitting, should be completed by the beginning of June. The student leadership team have been helping me plan colour schemes and the design of different spaces and their ideas have been fantastic.

We are looking forward to seeing Year 12 and 13 continue to hone their skills and embrace new opportunities throughout the Spring term.

NLT – Art and Design

To support students in making sure they are achieving their targets and making sure they are hitting their deadlines so that they can focus on the release of their exam paper which will happen on the 1st of February, NLT means Not Leaving Till finished; this is when students are requested to stay on site with the specialist staff around to support until the piece of work in question is complete. This approach has proved to be extremely effective this year and puts students into a strong position in terms of their course and potential outcomes.

UCAS Update

Year 13 students have submitted their applications to universities for courses starting in Autumn 2026. Most students are already receiving offers of places, and some have even made their decisions regarding making first and insurance choices. Around 75% of Year 13 students are making university applications. Local and regional universities remain popular, but applications are being made to universities across the whole country. Most popular course choices are social science subjects – Law, Psychology and Criminology - followed by Science, Engineering and Maths courses, IT and Business, and vocational options such as Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching and Social Work. Students have a few months to make their final choices and will also be ready to apply for Student Finance in February/March. Support will continue to be given to all students as they complete the application process.

Year 11 Interviews

Recently, the Sixth Form Leadership team began the process of interviewing all the Wigston Academy students hoping to gain a place in our Sixth Form. This is a really busy yet enjoyable process for the team as we get to meet so many students with such great potential. Although it is referred to as an interview this is much more of a guidance meeting and it gives us the chance to start getting to know our aspiring future sixth formers. The College continues to be popular with the best part of 700 applicants from around the city and county looking to join us in the next academic year, and with approximately 150 places available competition remains high. Do not panic if your child has not yet had their interview as this process will be ongoing. We aim to have completed all Wigston Academy interviews by half term, if your child has missed their interview then we will attempt to re-arrange. Following the February half term, we will be meeting and interviewing all of our external applicants either in person or via MS TEAMS.

If students are successful and are offered a place, we will update this on PS@16 and they should log in and accept their offer so as not to lose their place. We will then be in touch with all offer holders with details about our Induction Day which this year will be held on **Thursday 25th June**. Induction Day is a really important opportunity for students to come to the College for the day, meet their subject specialist staff, ensure they are informed of what they need to be doing over the summer to prepare for level 3 study and gives us further chance to get to know each student.

As always, if you have any questions regarding this process please do get in touch.

A Level Law Moot Court Week

The end of the Autumn Term meant only one thing – it was moot week for our A Level Law students, and once again both Year 12 and Year 13 rose to the challenge with confidence, skill and professionalism.

Year 13 students took part in a challenging moot based on a fictional celebrity media intrusion case. One team represented the celebrity client, advancing arguments for breach of confidence and the tort of misuse of private information, while also exploring potential issues under Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. The opposing team represented the fictional newspaper, The 'Daily Beacon', robustly rebutting the claim and defending press freedom. The effort on display was exceptional, with arguments presented with real vigour, precision and impressive legal accuracy. As always, students addressed their jury with confidence and professionalism and we were immensely proud of their performance.



Year 12 recently marked an exciting milestone as they attempted their very first moot trial. They were expertly coached and supported by members of the Year 13 cohort, helping them to develop this vital legal skill. The scenario presented was a fictional murder trial, with one team acting for the prosecution and the other for the defence, arguing a partial defence of loss of control. Despite this being their first experience of mooting, students were highly engaging, well prepared and confident – with some looking as though they had been doing it for years. Their performances were exceptional, and we were incredibly proud of both our Year 12 students and our dedicated, professional Year 13 mentors. As always, our legal eagles made us proud!



Why do we moot?

To qualify as a solicitor in England and Wales, candidates must now complete the Solicitors Qualifying Examination (SQE). SQE2 focuses on practical legal skills and is a mandatory requirement for qualification. One key element of SQE2 is advocacy, a practical oral assessment in which candidates must analyse a case file and present clear, structured legal arguments to a judge. Students are assessed on how well they can apply the law correctly, present clear and convincing arguments, and use the correct language and style expected in a courtroom in both criminal and civil cases. Mooting directly develops these vital skills. By taking part in moots, students gain early experience of legal argument, courtroom etiquette and professional confidence, giving them an advantage as they progress to university and into legal training. This was recently reinforced by a former student, now studying Law at the University of Derby, who contacted us during her first week of term:



"We have already done practice moots and honestly thank you for showing us properly how to do them as it has given us a great head start."

Moot week once again highlighted the importance of practical legal skills alongside academic study and showcased the outstanding talent, commitment and potential of our students. We could not be prouder!

Mrs Espiner & Mrs Sperring



Exam Success – preparation is key!

There is plenty of time to ensure exam success; the following advice will help students to achieve the highest grades possible.

In College:

- **Make the most out of all lessons.** Use subject areas on Teams to consolidate and **fill** any **gaps**.
- Ensure you **know all topics** that need revising and create a weekly work schedule to be able to cover everything. It is 100% proven that those with a schedule do better than those without.
- Revise in the most **effective ways** to maximise time. Re- reading over notes is the **slowest** way to revise content.
- Best to use a **variety of methods** and best to **revise a variety of topics** each day and not focus on one subject at a time – rotate a blend of topics from each subject on each day.
- Create revision materials yourself. As you process and **put information into your own words** – you engage higher order brain function – you will remember more. Online information is harder to recall and store – paper/card is more effective.
- Use shape, lines, **colour**, pictures to make your revision notes more memorable. Images linked to the information you are trying to learn improve memorisation. Turn notes from wordier subjects into diagrams, MindMaps, flow charts and sketches. Turn diagrams and charts from less wordy subjects into notes.
- Free recall – e.g. blurting, brain dumps, teaching someone else- is the **most effective method** of memorising and saying notes out loud maximises retention.
- Any resources/notes/diagrams you make must be **revisited regularly** – the more you see the same information the more likely you are to recall it. An hour of physics per day is more effective than five hours in one day.
- **Frequent self-testing** (retrieval practice) is one of the best strategies for putting information into the long-term memory.

- **Revise in silence** – research proves that music takes up processing space, diluting your revision.

At home:

Lifestyle habits can improve or reduce success during exams. Consider the following:

- ✓ The brain works best when it is **well fed, watered, exercised and rested**. The ideal is to drink 8 glasses of water per day, avoid brain draining food (high fat, sugar, salt) and to sleep for a minimum of 8 hours per day. Revision is 40% weaker if the brain is sleep deprived. Walking boosts brain performance (by 20%) and reduces stress.
- ✓ Having a mobile phone nearby can lead to a 20% reduction in attention, concentration and performance – best not have it in the room when revising.
- ✓ Stress can be avoided during exam season if you are organised, well prepared and looking after your brain. A positive frame of mind ('can do' attitude and positive self-talk), mindfulness and breathing exercises (use Headspace or Calm apps) will give you the best opportunity to excel.

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 so far, this academic year. Keep up the good work:

Most Commitment to Learning points in Year 12:

Poppy White

Francesca Chapman

Lilac Smith

Eleanor Erswell

Mya Darby

Charlie Hind

Kate Casey

Jasmine Westwood

Sotirios Mantzidis

Nell Howkins

Most Commitment to Learning points in Year 13:

Demi Graham

Hannah Spear

Erin Burton

Maya Extremera-Ravel

Imogen Howson

Tilly Hudson

Emily Fincham

Shyla-Denae Wilson

Alexei Chapman

Charlotte Hurst

Kia Johnson

Amelie Ots

Rebecca Pearson

Daisy Smith

Cyra Webb

**Well done to all our Commitment to learning achievers
this half term!**



Careers Update

Mock Interviews – 21st January 2026

What a fantastic morning! Year 13 students, who are entering the world of work in September, had a Mock Interview with volunteers from the local business community. There was a really positive atmosphere and buzz in the room, with lots of engaging conversations taking place. Students went in a little nervous and came out with smiles on their faces. Lots of constructive feedback on how the students can improve and what to focus on for their next interview.

It was lovely to welcome the volunteers to help with the interviews this year.

Thank you to the all of the local volunteers who gave up their time to support our students. It is so important for young people to engage with local employers and experience elements of the world of work to help them prepare for their futures.



Save the date - Careers Fair; 18th March 2026

Wigston Academies Trust careers fair will be held at Wigston College on Wednesday 18th March 2026 from 5.00pm – 7.30pm. There are many stands to support students in Year 12 and Year 13, these will include Further Education College, Universities and Local Employers. The companies who have vacancies with apprenticeships for college leavers will be advertising throughout the evening. Booking is essential so please look out for further information closer to the time.

National Apprenticeship Week

Year 12 students will be taking part in a mini workshop delivered by the East Midlands Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (EMAAN). This is a great opportunity for students to find out more information about apprenticeships and the pathways available. This is a great way to 'earn while you learn', achieving qualifications up to and beyond degree level. Look out for more information throughout the week.



National Careers Week 2nd – 7th March 2026



This will be the fifth year we have participated fully in the NCW to raise awareness of the wide range of careers and options available to students. It will provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways Post 18.

All subjects will be exploring how their skills and knowledge can lead to future careers and different employment opportunities.

For more information about Careers Education at Wigston College visit the website

[Careers Home | Wigston Multi Academy Trust \(wigstonmat.org\)](https://www.wigstonmat.org)

Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department has had an exceptionally busy and successful academic year so far across the Trust, delivering two fully sold-out programmes to audiences of over 820 people.

We are currently rehearsing *The Prince of Egypt*, an epic biblical production featuring a powerful and moving score. This ambitious show showcases the outstanding talent and dedication of our students and will be performed from 11th –14th March. With over 60 students involved on stage, this highly elaborate production represents the culmination of many months of hard work. We are particularly delighted by the number of new students participating in this year's performance and would like to extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us in any way.

Looking ahead to the end of the academic year, our final concert, Summer Fiesta, will take place on 24th and 25th June.

Tickets for all productions are available via our websites at www.wigstoncollege.org and www.wigstonacademy.org by following the production ticket link. Tickets can also be purchased from the Academy reception.

We warmly invite you to come and support our incredible students—many of whom will be performing on stage for the very first time. Thank you for your continued support of Performing Arts, and we look forward to welcoming you to our events.

Miss Watkiss - Head of Performing Arts



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WAT PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
DREAMWORKS
THE
PRINCE OF EGYPT
THE MUSICAL

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

11TH - 14TH MARCH 2026

We're incredibly proud to be the first to perform this show in the East Midlands—don't miss it!

GET YOUR TICKETS FROM WIGSTON ACADEMY RECEPTION OR WWW.WIGSTONACADEMY.ORG OR WWW.WIGSTONCOLLEGE.ORG

Sixth Formers - Save the date:

Thursday 26th March

Has your Sixth Form child missed any of the following vaccinations:

- HPV (which prevents several cancers including cervical and head/neck cancers)
- MMR (protecting against measles, mumps, and rubella)
- Flu
- RSV
- Maternal pertussis (whooping cough).

We are hosting an NHS immunisation outreach station at Wigston College site on the Thursday 26th March 2026

Students do not need to know if their immunisations are up to date, the team will be able to inform them on the day.

An excellent opportunity in preparation for University, Apprenticeship or employment !



Mental Health Week: 9th – 15th February 2026

If students are struggling with any aspect of mental health and don't want to talk to the Post 16 team, please share the Leicestershire Self Referral options for young people. Posters are also displayed around the campus.



The poster features the NHS logo at the top right. The main title is 'MY SELF REFERRAL' in a stylized font, with 'LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND' underneath. A speech bubble on the left contains the text 'Worried about seeking help for your mental health?'. To the right of the speech bubble are three stacked blue boxes with white text: 'Safe', 'Free', and '24/7'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'My Self-Referral is a safe, confidential option for children & young people under 18 living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.' A QR code is located in the bottom right corner, and text below it says 'Support is a click away. Visit the new My Self-Referral website below or scan the QR code...'. At the very bottom, the website URL 'MySelfReferral-LLR.nhs.uk' is displayed in white text on a dark blue background.

Dear Parent/Carer,

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and police forces.

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has experienced domestic abuse and other issues that may impact upon their wellbeing.

The police force will now share details about children who are missing from home with us so that we can appropriately understand and support their needs when they return.

As a school we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and we believe this will be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

Head Teacher

We are an Operation Encompass College

For further information, please come and see us.



Operation Encompass is a national scheme that operates jointly between schools and all police forces.

“ Children who live in homes where there is domestic abuse, or who experience domestic abuse in their own teenage relationships, can be negatively impacted by this experience. ”

“ We have ensured that a member of our staff, (Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained about Operation Encompass procedures. This allows us to use the information that has been confidentially shared with us by the police, to understand how a child may be impacted by domestic abuse and to then offer support to the child/ren in our care. ”

“ This information means that we can understand a child's behaviour and support that child in whatever way they may need or want. ”

“ Children who experience domestic abuse are recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right¹. ”

“ Operation Encompass means that our school will be told, prior to the start of the next school day, when police have attended an incident of domestic abuse where there is a child or young person who attends our school who is related to any of those involved in the incident. ”

“ We are keen to offer the very best support possible to all our pupils and we believe that being part of Operation Encompass helps us to do this. ”

¹ Domestic Abuse Act 2021