



# WIGSTON COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

## Welcome to the College Bulletin – May 2026

It is certainly true that time flies, as we head towards the last half term of the school year. This year has been packed with opportunities, achievements and challenges — from overcoming periods of difficult weather and unexpected burst water pipes in the locality, to celebrating personal successes across our community. Whether it has been students climbing Snowdon, our successful sports teams, outstanding performances, charity events, the Sixth Form Sports Day, or academic excellence such as Mustafa's recent success in the Chemistry Olympiad achieving a Silver Award, there is much to be proud of.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, parents, carers and staff for their continued support of the College and all that we do in the best interests of our students and wider community.

I would also like to wish our Year 12 students undertaking live assessments, and our Year 13 students in their final examinations, the very best of luck. They have made a strong and positive start and we are confident they will continue to do brilliantly.

Our “Student First” mantra continues to underpin our work. This year, we have maintained a strong focus on student voice, working closely with our Student Government and committees to shape opportunities and improve facilities across the College. One exciting development is the new Sixth Form Cardio Suite, which is due to open during the final half term. Students have also worked alongside senior leaders to help shape plans for the new building as well as improvements to our dining area, reception and the Olivier Suite — watch this space for further developments.

A key priority for us as a Trust is ensuring that all students are well prepared for their next steps, whatever pathway they choose. Since March, students have attended a range of events to support this, including our Careers Fair and the Year 12 Higher Education Fair at the University of Leicester. Students applying to university have also benefited from mock interviews for competitive courses and degree apprenticeships, alongside guidance to support their firm and insurance choices. We are pleased to see a continued increase in applications, with 79% of Year 13 students applying to university this year, which is an increase on last year.

One of the highlights of March was the production of *The Prince of Egypt*. It was a privilege to see students from across the Trust performing together and to witness our Sixth Form students taking on leadership roles through choreography and mentoring younger performers. We are incredibly fortunate to have such talented young people within our community.

On 1 May, our student leadership team joined Mr Wilson and myself in hosting a reunion, welcoming former Guthlaxton students from as far back as 1957. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to reconnect, share memories and reflect on their time at the school. It was a privilege to facilitate such a meaningful event, and I would like to thank Erin, Tobi, Eesha, Ruby and Amelia for their support in making the afternoon such a success.

The final half term is always an exciting one. We are looking forward to welcoming Year 12 students and parents to our Higher Education Evening on 10th June, where representatives from De Montfort

University and the University of Leicester will provide guidance on choosing courses, understanding student finance and student life.

We are also preparing to welcome prospective Sixth Form students at our Induction Day on 25th June – we can't wait to meet everyone and welcome you to our community. We also look forward to celebrating student success at a number of key events, including our Sports Awards Evening, Year 11 and Year 13 Awards Evening and the Year 13 Leavers' Ball on 3rd July. To round off a very busy and successful year, Year 12 students will also have the opportunity to take part in a reward activity — more details to follow.

Thank you once again for your continued support. By working together in partnership, we can ensure that all students feel seen, valued, supported and inspired to be the very best version of themselves.

Warm regards,



**Mrs Ailie Pollon - Headteacher Wigston College**

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

### SUMMER TERM 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

## A message from the Executive Headteacher

After a long career in education, I have decided to retire at the end of this academic year.

I regard myself as extremely privileged and lucky to have been involved with a number of schools in Wigston Magna and have met many exceptional and inspiring people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to making my time in Wigston so rewarding and to wish you all the best for the future.

Mr Mike Wilson

## Wigston College Round Up:

We are very proud of the community we have here at Wigston College. It is something that is often commented on by visitors, students, staff and even Ofsted have praised the positive atmosphere on our campus. That community is and has always been, shaped, driven and developed by our student body. Recently we have been asking Year 12s to consider who would like to step forward and represent the voice of the students and be elected to the office of Student Leadership either as Student President or as Vice President. We have also challenged the Year group to reflect on who they would like to see as their elected leaders what qualities make for an effective leader. As John F Kennedy famously once said “Think not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country”.

Democracy is one of the four fundamental British Values and it is essential to how Britain functions as a country socially, politically and culturally. It is important because it protects rights, ensures fairness and enables people to have a voice in how the country is run. This echoes our ethos of Students First and the importance of student voice and why as a college we have a student leadership team.

It is essential that those with the power to vote think critically about the skills need for this role. The Student Leadership team are often the public face of our college as well as representing the views of the student themselves. They have the responsibility of leading Student Government, oversight of Student Committees, organising College events, actively promoting the College ethos and setting a positive example to their peers. The Leadership Team often get lots of practice in public speaking, welcoming parents to open evenings and promoting the work of the College within the wider community. This is a prestigious and important role and should be considered by those with the power to vote, very carefully.

The role offers a real opportunity to develop leadership, organisational, communication and strategic thinking skills and often leads to useful discussions especially when applying for higher education, apprenticeships or employment.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing Presidents Erin Burton and Tobi Akinduro for a superb year in office and being such great ambassadors for Wigston College and Wigston Academies Trust. They were ably supported by Vice Presidents Eesha Ajeesh, Hark Singh and Ruby Campbell. They now need to hand the baton over as they focus on their final exams.

This year we have three candidates standing for election and they are Ernie Atkinson, Rahmatullah Ojo and Paidia Musarurwa. They began the campaign with the traditional hustings; each candidate was given a three-minute slot to be able to address the voting Year 12 cohort. In this time, they expressed who they were, why they wanted to stand for election and what they thought they could bring to the role.

All three candidates spoke confidently and eloquently to a room of 120 of their peers, which is an excellent test of their public speaking skills and whether they have what it takes to fulfil the position.

The candidates then moved on to a weeklong campaign of posters, stickers, promo video's and bunting to promote what they stand for.



Polling day took place on Wednesday 13th May, with a steady flow of Year 12 students showing their ID to collect voting slips before casting their votes.

The votes were counted and Mrs Pollon met with the candidates to reveal the results on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. There was an air of excitement and it gives us great pleasure to announce the result of the Student President Elections, they have already completed their first official engagements including recording a message to the student body and a photo shoot!



Wigston College Student President for 2026 – 2027 is Ernie Atkinson and he will be supported by Vice Presidents Rahmatullah Ojo and Paidia Musarurwa. Congratulations for such a wonderful campaign and such a close contest! We look forward to working with you all!



**STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM  
2026/27**

## Dates for your diary:

<b>Who</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Event/Activity</b>
<b>Year 11 that have accepted offers from Wigston College</b>	<b>Thursday 25th June 2026 8.35am – 2.55pm</b>	<b>Offer holder Induction Day</b>
<b>Year 12 PPE Week</b>	<b>w/b 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Wednesday 10th June, 6.30pm- 8.00pm.</b>	<b>Higher Education Evening Including choosing the right university and course and navigating student finance.</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Friday 26th June 2026</b>	<b>UCAS launch &amp; Apprenticeship/Employment preparation.</b>
<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Tuesday 20th June 2026</b>	<b>Progress evening – by invitation</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Friday 22nd May 2026 12noon onwards</b>	<b>Leavers Assembly</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Friday 3rd July 2026</b>	<b>Leavers Ball Arrival 7.00pm- 7.15pm (food at 7.30pm) carriages at 11.30pm</b>
<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Thursday 13th August 2026</b>	<b>Results Day Results can be collected from 8.30am</b>

## Applications to University 2026

Year 13 students, with only a couple of exceptions, have now received all their offers of places for a 2026 university start, and have locked in their first and second choices of course. On A Level Results Day in August, students will find out if they have achieved the necessary grades to secure their university place and so begin the next stage of their educational journey.

Social Science courses feature very heavily (Law, Psychology, Criminology) and vocational interests such as Business, Accounting, Journalism, Media, Architecture and Engineering are also popular. Students are hoping to join the Health sector, training as a doctor, dentist, nurses, speech therapist and physiotherapist. There are also students hoping to pursue degrees in traditional academic disciplines such as Maths, English, History and Geography.

In terms of location, most students are choosing to study locally at Leicester University or De Montfort University or regionally within the Midlands (Birmingham, Coventry, Derby, Nottingham, Northampton, Lincoln). However, there will be students moving far and wide from Exeter in the West, East Anglia to the East, York in the North and London to the South.

As the Year 13 students embark on their A level examinations over the coming weeks, we wish them every success in their future pathways.

## Year 12 Visitor

Professor George Lewis visited the College to speak to Year 12 History students on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March. He is Head of the School of History, International Relations and Politics at the University of Leicester. He researches race and racism in the United States; his expertise in modern US history also includes civil rights, segregation, the ideologies of Americanism, un-Americanism and the American South.

Professor Lewis spent a lesson with students and talked about why it is relevant to study History at degree level, what a degree course looks like at Leicester University and what a history student's timetable would consist of week to week. After his presentation he held a question-and-answer session and our students were prepared with a range of pertinent questions. In addition, Professor Lewis had one-to-one sessions with students aspiring to study History at Leicester.

Mrs Dobney organised the visit and said it was a successful, inspiring and beneficial afternoon.



## Trip to Parliament

Our A Level Government and Politics group went on a trip to the Houses of Parliament which was both an exciting opportunity and educational experience. The day was packed with visiting famous landmarks, museums, history and culture, creating a memorable day for everyone

The trip began with us arriving at Trafalgar Square, known to be an iconic area in London. Surrounded by the crowds and fountains. It was a great place to start from. From there we made our way to the National Gallery, where we viewed many famous artworks from the likes of Vincent Van Gogh. After exploring the gallery, we went through London and experienced the city's atmosphere. We arrived at the River Thames enjoying the view, passing the Cenotaph, a powerful memorial that allowed us to reflect on history as we walked.

Another highlight of the trip was being able to see Big Ben with our own eyes as it is an impressive and significant structure in London

Finally, we arrived at the Houses of Parliament where we were guided through Parliament. We got to see a lot of things such as St. Stephens Chapel. We learned about the different events that have happened in there. We were guided through the building into the Houses of Commons where we had the opportunity to sit inside the House of Commons and watch a live debate taking place. We were in there for 10 minutes, and was really interesting to see how the debates work in person. After that were guided through Westminster Hall and we were taught about the history that exists within it.

We then took part in a workshop where we were guided by a member of staff. We were split into four groups and competed in a political quiz. After we created our own Government party competing against others in a general election to see who had the best political party. We had to create our own party and use our political knowledge in order to create a policy that was compelling, we had to convince everyone to vote for us and explain how we would implement our policies and answer any questions about our political party.

We all had a really good day!

Gurveer Singh - Year 13



## Death of a Landlord Murder Trial

I went to the Death of a Landlord Murder Trial on the 12th of February at De Montfort Hall and I did not know what the case was about apart from the fact it was based around a tenant potentially murdering his landlord and that it was based on a true story. However, I was surprised at how much it replicated the feeling of being in a real court room.

The very beginning showed a small film of what happened before the murder to establish the case. The prosecution and the defence then read out their opening statements which are summaries of what they are going to argue in the trial. The prosecution wanted the audience to look at the evidence and find the defendant - Tre Bennett guilty for the murder of Victor Sloane who was killed in his office. The defence wanted the audience to not look at the prosecution's evidence at face value and to instead look at who Tre really is. The defence wanted the audience to find Tre not guilty for the murder.

The prosecution then presented their evidence and witnesses. These were the personal assistant of the victim, a detective and a psychiatrist. All of these witnesses gave compelling evidence that really helped build on the prosecution's case. The defence then had their chance to examine the witnesses and to try and put a doubt on the prosecution's side. An example of this was when the psychiatrist said that he diagnosed the defendant with schizophrenia and the defence tried to argue that only makes Tre more vulnerable rather than violent. The prosecution then went to examine their witnesses for a second time to try and prove beyond the defence's doubt. I found this argument very interesting as it started to build a picture of what happened on the night Victor Sloane was murdered. However, the prosecution's evidence was not enough to draw any conclusions as we the audience had not heard the defence's argument yet.

After the interval, it was time for the defence to present their evidence and witnesses. The defence brought out as witnesses: Tre's music teacher, his mother and Tre himself. In my opinion, I don't think that he really added anything of value to the case as he just told the jury about who Tre was when he was having his music lessons because the audience learnt that he could play music very well. Tre's mother told the jury about how both she and her son escaped from Sierra Leone because of a war. She also tried to argue that she knows her son would never commit any crime let alone murder. Finally, the defendant had his chance to argue that he did not commit the crime. The prosecution then had a chance to examine all three witnesses before finally the defence examined them for a second time. Overall, I don't think the defence's argument was as convincing as the prosecution's side.

After the defence had presented their argument, it was time for the jury to cast their verdict. I went with guilty, but my dad went with not guilty. The foreperson of the jury then read out the verdict the jury has reached in which the majority (92%) said not guilty. Finally, there was a continuation of the film which shows what actually happened in which it was revealed the defendant was guilty of the murder.

Overall, I think it was a great opportunity to see how a court trial worked. In the real case in 2016, he was found guilty for murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum of 25 years.

Gracie Collins – Year 12



## Performing Arts

The Performing Arts Department has enjoyed a busy and highly successful year to date. We have staged three major productions this academic year, including our ambitious and exceptionally well-received *Prince of Egypt*. This production involved over 60 students on stage and was performed to audiences exceeding 900 people—an increase on last year's figures. It has been the most demanding production undertaken by the Trust in many respects, and we are immensely proud of our talented students who rose to the challenge with outstanding commitment and professionalism.

We have received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from staff, students and our valued WAT Productions community, whose continued support is greatly appreciated. Rehearsals are now underway for our final production of the year, *Summer Fiesta*. This event will celebrate our outgoing students and showcase a vibrant combination of Musical Theatre, Music and Dance. We look forward to these performances with great anticipation.

This year, several students have also contributed to our choreography team and we are extremely grateful for their dedication. While we are sad to see such a strong cohort leave, we thank them for their commitment, support and exceptional talent. We wish them every success in their future endeavours and look forward to seeing the next steps in their journeys.

We are also delighted by the growing number of students engaging in Performing Arts, which we are confident will lead to even more exciting opportunities for our emerging performers.

In addition, we hosted our Key Stage 3 talent show, *WAT's Got Talent*, at the end of April. This event provided a valuable platform for younger students to showcase their abilities. With over 20 acts, the show featured a wide range of performances, including singing, dancing, roller skating, cello and original poetry. It was a pleasure to support these students at the beginning of their performing arts journey.

Now in its fourth year, *WAT's Got Talent* continues to go from strength to strength. Our student judges, all accomplished performers, provided thoughtful and encouraging feedback and we are very grateful for their contribution, as well as for the support of Mr Manton. The event also raised £652.43 to date for our chosen charity, Wishes4Kids.

*Summer Fiesta* will be performed on 24th and 25th June. Tickets are available via the College and Academy websites ([www.wigstoncollege.org](http://www.wigstoncollege.org) and [www.wigstonacademy.org](http://www.wigstonacademy.org)) by following the production ticket link. Tickets may also be purchased from the Academy reception. We warmly invite you to join us in supporting our talented students in their final production of the academic year.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated Performing Arts team. Their significant contributions make these productions possible and provide invaluable opportunities for our students. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Roberts, Mrs Smith and Mrs Bradley for their continued commitment and support.

Miss Watkiss - Head of Performing Arts



## Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre

A group of students studying for the OCR Sport and Physical Activity course completed a full day at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. The morning activities saw the students taking part on the high ropes course, where several students overcame their fear of heights. In the afternoon the students took part in a series of water-based activities including paddle boarding or kayaking. The students gained a tremendous amount from the day. As well as learning many outdoor pursuits, the students benefited from organising the event entirely themselves.

Mr Chalk – Teacher of PE





As part of the OCR Sport and Physical Activity Course students organised an outdoor and adventure activity. The class organised a mountain climb, so chose the conveniently located Snowdon in North Wales! The group organised the transport, raised the funds to pay for the transport, completed all risk assessments, planned the route and all other aspects essential for the organising of a safe yet enjoyable trip.

As one of the supervising members of staff I was incredibly proud of the students who not only completed the climb to the summit of Snowdon, the highest mountain in England and Wales, but students also did it whilst battling against the elements and the traditional Welsh weather of rain, poor visibility and high winds.

Mr Chalk – Teacher of PE





## Pretty Mudder

Some Sixth Form girls took part in the Pretty Mudder recently.





This year has been incredibly difficult for my family. In February, my dad, Dave, passed away after fighting a grade 4 brain tumour. He was a huge part of my life, and I want to honour his memory by doing something meaningful in his name.

To honour him, a group of Year 13 students are taking on a run to raise money for a charity that funds vital brain tumour research — research that could help save thousands of lives in the future.

Any donation, no matter the size, would mean so much and would help support an important cause.



Thank you for your support.

[Fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/jessicas-team-12369](https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/team/jessicas-team-12369)

Year 13 student



Hi, I'm James, a **former student of Wigston College**, and this summer I'll be **climbing Mount Kilimanjaro (Over 4x the height of Ben Nevis)** to raise money for the **Meningitis Research Foundation**. This will be the **biggest challenge of my life**, with the expedition taking **7 days** and summit temperatures reaching **-15°C**.

**Meningitis can strike quickly and have life-changing consequences**, especially for young people. The Meningitis Research Foundation works to **fund vital research, improve early detection, raise awareness, and support those affected**—all of which help save lives and reduce long-term impact.

I've raised over £600 so far! My goal is to raise **£3000 before the end of July**, and every donation helps move me closer to that target and supports this important work.

Wigston College played a huge role in helping me achieve the qualifications that led me to the University of Bristol, which in turn has given me the opportunity to take on this challenge for charity.

If you're able to support, **any donation—big or small—would make a real difference to the lives of people affected by meningitis.**

You can **donate here** (with more details about my journey):

[https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/uk-kilimanjaro-29th-august-2026-student-choseachallenge-6926d67ddafbf?utm\\_medium=FA&utm\\_source=CL](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/uk-kilimanjaro-29th-august-2026-student-choseachallenge-6926d67ddafbf?utm_medium=FA&utm_source=CL)

**Thank you for your support!**

James



# Money Mules Warning

Dear Parent/Carer,

Leicestershire Police recently conducted a targeted operation against county lines drug activity, which often exploits vulnerable children and adults by coercing them into transporting drugs, acting as money mules, or assisting organised crime groups.

## What is a money mule?

A money mule is someone who transfers money that is either stolen or illegally derived through their own bank account on behalf of someone else and is often paid for doing so, either in cash or with items such as phones or trainers.

Criminals need money mules to launder the profits of their crimes.

Young people are increasingly being targeted to become money mules. They are approached online or in person, including through social media, at school, college or sports clubs. Sometimes people they know persuade them to take part, often because they are also acting as money mules.

Mules will usually be unaware of where the money comes from – commonly fraud and scams – and that it can go on to fund crimes such as drug dealing, people trafficking and terrorist activity.

## Being a money mule is illegal

When someone is caught, their bank account may be closed, and they will have problems getting student loans, mobile phone contracts and credit in the future. They could even face arrest for money laundering which carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in prison.

## What to look out for

Tell-tale signs that someone might be involved could be them suddenly having extra cash, buying expensive new clothes or top-of-the-range mobile phones and gadgets with very little explanation as to how they got the money. They may also become more secretive, withdrawn or appear stressed.

You and your child can learn more and get advice by visiting [www.dontbefooled.org.uk](http://www.dontbefooled.org.uk) together.

If you are worried that someone close to you might be involved in money muling, you can contact **Crimestoppers** anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

**Please do not attempt to contact any individual you suspect of organising money muling.**

**DON'T BE FOOLED**

 UK Finance 