



The West Bridgford Post

Issue No. 117

1 March 2019

Parent Newsletter

A comment from....

Mr McDonough,

Principal



It was national offer day today and we are aware this is a fraught and anxious time for our local parents. To help ease any anxiety, the governors have once again done all they can to ensure local children secure a place with us by offering places above and beyond our published admissions number of 216.

For September we have offered 287 places to ensure all children residing in our catchment area secure a place with us. These additional students will certainly place a strain on our facilities and so we aim to do all we can to make further improvements to the school site. Our overriding priority for this summer is to refurbish our student toilets in the main school, whilst at the same time make them all gender neutral. This will also double the number of toilets our students can access.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th Mar - Y8 Swimming Gala 3.30 - 5.30pm

5th Mar - Y8 ABCD Parent Consultation 2pm to 5.30pm

5th Mar - Early school closure for Y7, 8, 9 only - 1.13pm

7th Mar - World Book day

7th Mar - Y7 Swimming Gala 4pm to 5.30pm

13th Mar - 6th Form Music Showcase

ASPIRE PROGRAMME

Students train for success

In November we were delighted to receive some funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (D2N2) to deliver an exciting initiative which we called Aspire. The Aspire programme allowed us to work with a group of Year 11 students to inspire and motivate them to develop their skills for employment and consider their Post-16 options and longer-term career goals.

Rachel Reynolds, our school careers adviser, spent time working with the students to plan activities that would help them to make a positive transition to Post-16, linking this decision to longer term career goals. Through Aspire we provided a range of opportunities including visits to Nottingham and Loughborough Colleges, support from an employer to help students prepare for mock interviews, the Army delivering sessions around team building and Army careers and Nottingham University providing an inspiring insight into university life.

The students graduated from Aspire on 28th February with some fantastic success stories. Most of them have applied to study BTEC courses at college, some of them intend to progress to university after their Level 3 Extended Diploma course, which is the equivalent of three A Levels, and some are planning to pursue an apprenticeship

Rachel was very impressed by the progress they had made and said, 'Most of the students were unsure about which path to take after Year 11, but over the weeks I saw them grow in confidence and start making key decisions.' Students are interested in a range of careers including architecture, fashion buying, Army careers, the performing arts, nursing, business and trades such as plumbing and joinery

We asked the students to make comments about their experience;

'At first I didn't think this would help, but this has been one of the most beneficial things of the whole Year 11 - it takes a lot of stress away.'

'This project was really helpful because I was so worried and unsure about what to do after GCSEs and this

helped. It boosts people who are unsure.'

'Use the trips to colleges, ask questions so you can easily say yes and no! And follow your gut instincts and have a back up plan.'



time to change

TIME TO TALK WEEK -

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING GROUP

Time to Talk Week offered many different opportunities for students to explore their mental health and wellbeing. Students were encouraged to take part in a wide range of activities during the week, ranging from pebble painting, lavender bag making and even a pupil against teacher quiz (to mention only a few)! It was a week that was well received by staff and students alike.

We would like to thank everyone for the huge amount of effort that went into the week.



WEEK 1 -

w/c 4th March

THE WEST BRIDGFORD SCHOOL				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Potatoes Chicken & Mushroom Pie Vegetarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Potatoes Chicken & Mushroom Pie Vegetarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Potatoes Chicken & Mushroom Pie Vegetarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Potatoes Chicken & Mushroom Pie Vegetarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roast Potatoes Chicken & Mushroom Pie Vegetarian
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WEEK 2 -

w/c 11th March

THE WEST BRIDGFORD SCHOOL				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
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SKI 2019 – COURMAYEUR (YEAR 9) & SAUZE D'OULX (YEAR 11 AND 13)

A week of hot weather and hot skiing!

The two yearly ski trips have been a part of the West Bridgford School calendar for over 40 years and this year's trips were second-to-none. This year the 'Junior' trip, led by Mr Brown, took 40 Year 9 students on the long journey to **Courmayeur** in the very north of Italy, to enjoy a fantastic week of skiing. The blog from the trip can be found [HERE](#). The conditions in Courmayeur were incredible, they had brilliant clear blue skies for the entire week, which helped to show off the amazing views of the Alps, all around the resort. The best part of the trip was seeing students who are normally quiet and shy, beam with a smile from ear to ear each day saying how it has been "the best day ever"! Every single person advanced their skiing throughout the week and by the end they were all skiing complete runs from top to bottom. Everyone had a fantastic time.



The 'Senior' trip, led by Mr Deans went to **Sauze D'Oulx**, also in Italy. The blog from the trip can be found [HERE](#). The trip, aimed at the older students, benefits from all of the good work carried out by the Junior trip, with two fast and competent advanced groups whizzing around the mountain to the delight of the instructors who guide and develop them. Both beginner groups skied from the top, to the bottom of the resort by the end of the week. The older trip also takes a beginner snowboarder group every year, who mastered turns and jumps in the park. The students performed admirably, with the hoteliers, coach drivers and instructors all saying the familiar refrain by the end of the week 'these are the best group we have had in years'. All the ski-staff wish to thank all those involved in this year's trips and very much appreciate the 'Thank-you' emails we have received this week. Students find the week inspirational and many life-long skiers are created. Next year's two trips are already full, with half of the payments already in, but watch out for the launch of 'Ski 2021' in September 2019 if you wish to gain a place on this super half-term experience.



LINKS CONTINUE TO GROW WITH THE LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

On Wednesday 13th February, the Year 12 Spanish group spent the day at the University of Nottingham and took part in a number of activities to practise their language skills. The students started the morning with a grammar workshop, followed by a tour of campus, which included exploring various buildings and stopping for a coffee in the Student Union café. They finished the day with a translation class delivered by one of the Spanish university lecturers.

This is one of the many initiatives in partnership with the university that Spanish students have taken part in to explore languages beyond the classroom and the day gave students a snippet of life as a university student.



INTERNET SAFETY - WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT 'MOMO' - ITS FAKE!

The 'Momo Challenge' is an internet trend which has been around for some time. It has recently resurfaced and once again come to the attention of schools and children across the country. The national media have picked up on it this time with extensive coverage. Dubbed the 'suicide killer game', Momo has been heavily linked with apps such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube and, most recently, (and most worryingly) YouTube Kids. A scary doll-like figure reportedly sends graphic violent images and asks users to partake in dangerous challenges like waking up at random hours and has even been associated with self-harm.... However.... **It's all fake**. The *actual* story is the media reaction rather than the non-existent challenge. We questioned as to whether we should perpetuate the story, however as we have had some scared Year 7 students we thought it was best to let parents know about this fake, and supply some media sources to refer to.

[BBC NEWS ARTICLE](#) – 'Momo – The Anatomy of a Hoax'

[GUARDIAN NEWS ARTICLE](#) – 'Parents – Don't panic about Momo'

Concerned schools and police forces have been issuing warnings about 'Momo', particularly with 'Safer Internet Day' having just taken place on the 5th Feb. Also, newspapers have been reporting on this and, as a result, a self-feeding spiral of warnings and articles have appeared over the course of the week, with the story featuring as a major article on BBC News. It would appear that the initial story can be traced back to a small local newspaper in the NW, that in itself was quoting from a local parent's Facebook feed. However, the story has served as an educational opportunity in school, to how a small piece of 'gossip' can be blown out of all proportion and how we must question what we read and see on the internet.



CILIP CARNEIGE MEDAL 2019

The CILIP Carnegie Medal has been awarded annually by children's librarians, for the last 82 years, to the writer of an outstanding book written in English for children and young people. Previous winners of the CILIP Carnegie Medal include Arthur Ransome, C.S. Lewis, Terry Pratchett, Philip Pullman, Sally Gardner and, most recently, Geraldine McCaughrean.

Each Friday, from Friday 22nd March until Friday 21st June, there will be a shadowing group to read and discuss the shortlisted novels run by Mrs Marshall, Miss Simmonds and Miss Tuckwood, held in E5. We will choose which of the shortlisted books to read each week, discuss our views on the novels and write a review about the book, which will help us to decide who we think should be awarded the CILIP Carnegie Medal.



The CILIP Carnegie shortlist will be announced on Tuesday 19th March where the twenty books on the longlist will be narrowed down to eight for us to read!

If you are interested in participating in the CILIP Carnegie Book Award, please speak to Mrs Marshall to receive a letter with more information about the award and the shadowing process.

A WARM HELLO FROM CREATIVE WRITING CLUB.

Hi! Are you interested in creative writing or reading? If so, Creative Writing Club on Tuesdays after school is perfect for you! From 2:45pm to 4pm (or whenever you need to leave), we have fun as we talk about ways to enhance our writing as well as having a go ourselves. Even if you don't normally like these kinds of things, this could be your chance to try it out. Who knows, maybe creative writing is your hidden talent? We sometimes play games and often have writing prompts to inspire us. This week's prompt was: *Someone is dancing. Why?*

Below is an extract we created together:

Fay's jade green eyes sparkled in the moonlight and her golden hair waved around her, following the rhythm of her body.

The light shone between the branches of gnarly trees, creating sparkling streaks of light on the forest floor. She tiptoed through them, lost in a sea of sublime music.

She gracefully held her arms aloft, the strong lines of her muscles flexing and relaxing. There was an eerie elegance to her movement – purposeful and intense. Willowy limbs. Abrupt bone structure. Arms outstretched. Chin aloft. She was joy.

The teaching staff that run the club are helpful and approachable and so are the students that take part. You can meet new people and socialise with others who share your interests. From discussions about our favourite books to writing short stories and poetry, Creative Writing Club gives you the opportunity to express yourself freely. Come visit us in E1, which is in the same room as Miss Wright and Mrs Clarke, and have some fun!

This week we're reading: Listen to the Moon by Michael Morpurgo, Shell by Paula Rawsthorne and Bartimaeus – the Amulet of Samarkand by Jonathan Stroud.

