



Updates for the parents and community of The South Wolds Academy and Sixth Form



## School Expansion

We are very excited to tell you that the school has recently secured significant funding towards expanding our infrastructure due to new housing developments in the school's catchment area. As a direct result of this we recently made a planning application for a brand new building with adjacent car parking facilities for 40 cars. This will be located on the current field area that faces Wolds Drive and will offer a fantastic new space for our students. The project will be going out to tender in January and we will provide further updates in relation to timescales when we have completed that process.

In addition to a new building we are continuing our rolling programme of classroom refurbishment with five shiny new maths classrooms now in full use. There are a number of other projects planned over the next 18 months and as these come on line we will share more information.

## KEY DATES

- 20th Dec - 3rd Jan - Xmas break
- 4th - 5th Jan - Onsite testing and remote learning
- 6th Jan - Return to onsite learning
- 6th Jan - Year 11/13 Awards Evening
- 7th Jan - Year 9 HPV Immunisation
- 26th Jan - Year 9 Careers Day
- 2nd Feb - Year 9 Options Evening
- 4th Feb - Health Awareness Day
- 8th Feb - Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 11th Feb - Break up for half term

## Useful Links

Please click on the links below:

Information on advice and guidance to support Mental Health - [Mental Health Support](#)

At South Wolds we value the importance of educating our students in staying safe online - E-Safety information



## Anti-Bullying Day

By Miss Drewett

As part of our equality and diversity education at South Wolds we run six awareness days. These cover a variety of topics and are aimed to educate our students around differences and generate awareness of the difficulties others may face.

The Anti-Bullying awareness day took place on Friday 19th November. This was a fundraising event and all the proceeds went to Children In Need.

We asked all students to come in non-uniform, wear

odd socks and to make a voluntary contribution of £1.

We work closely with the Anti Bullying Alliance and received a silver award previously for our development of anti-bullying in school.

This year's theme is 'ONE KIND WORD'. All the students have had an assembly delivered to them by myself which includes school support and the words of the Anti-Bullying Alliance.

This has then been followed up with a tutor time activity for each group on anti-bullying day.

We are encouraging our students to realise how much of a difference a small act of kindness may make to someone and with one of our core values being linked to this we hope our school community will get on board and make a difference with just ONE KIND WORD!



## Year 10 Aspire Programme

By Mrs Capewell

On Weds 24th November 45 Year 10 students visited the University of Leicester as part of the The South Wolds Academy Aspire programme.

This is a programme that runs every year to support the highest achieving students make decisions about A levels and University.

The visit included a talk about the benefits of Higher Education and what studying a degree is like.

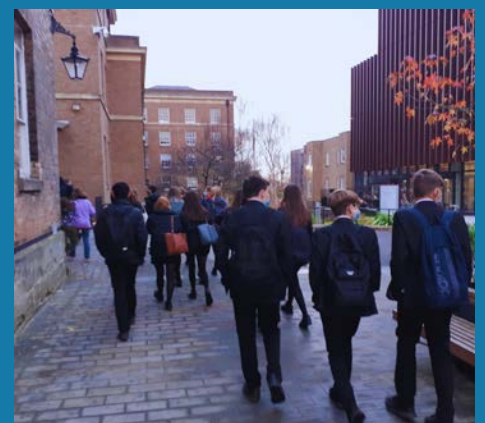
With a total of 130 universities in the UK offering in the region of 33,000 different undergraduate courses, there is plenty to choose from!

We had a tour of the campus and learned that the University was founded 100 years ago as a memorial for all the local people who had made sacrifices in the First World War.

In its first year there were 11 full time students, ten women and one man. Even back then Leicester was pioneering the way in terms of gender

equality given that most other universities were still the preserve of men.

The Aspire programme now continues through years 10 and 11 to include sessions on Russell Group Universities, Oxbridge and choosing A levels.



# Students Experience in the Eco Council

## By Rebecca N Year 8

While Covid caused my entry into the Eco Council to be quite slow, it is one of the best experiences I have had at South Wolds. Everyone in the Eco Council is so kind and welcoming, especially Amy and Emily. They are always happy to help, and have answered all of my questions very quickly.

I decided to join the Eco Council in March this year. When we were told about the opportunity I was a bit hesitant as I didn't think that I would enjoy it, but I am so glad that I did decide to join. I made the decision because it was something that I had never done before, and it is a really great idea.

I think that protecting the environment is so important, but I had no way to do so. This was the perfect way to be able to contribute to saving our planet.

I hope that we are able to do more and play our part in the rescue of our planet. An example of how I'm hoping to do this is to get recycling bins outside. At lunch and break, there is so much that could be recycled that has to just go in the regular bin instead.

Another way that I am hoping to do this is improve our pen recycling. Some of the classrooms now have 'Pen Graveyards' for old pens, but I am hoping that we can get them in ALL of the classrooms.

These are just two ideas, and everyone in the eco council has some, so together, we can do so much for our planet.

I think that it is important for us to be an eco friendly school because as was mentioned in some of the protests in Glasgow in November, we really don't have a 'Planet B'. If we take care of it, the world can be a really beautiful place.



## By Holly S-R Year 13

I wanted to run a British Sign Language club as I knew it would teach people about the Deaf community, as well as the language itself. This is very important as a lot of hearing people don't know how to interact with a Deaf or hard-of-hearing person without accidentally offending them, or even discriminating against them.



By learning British Sign Language, people will not only learn a new language but will also be more Deaf aware than they were before.

This term, we will be learning how to introduce ourselves, spell the alphabet, count from one to one hundred and talk about our family. We will also be learning about what Deafness is and why Deaf awareness matters.

As somebody who is Deaf myself, helping other people learn about the Deaf community is very important to me. This is because although there has been some improvement in being more inclusive, such as showing more Deaf characters and celebrities on television shows, there is still a lot to be done. For example, there was

recently a survey done by National Deaf Children's Society about Deaf awareness in the classroom. They found out that only 20% of students feel like their teachers know how to help them.

This is obviously an issue, as every child should be able to achieve academically regardless of disability. This survey was created by the Young People's Advisory Board (which I am a member of) and has allowed us to start creating a teacher-training module which aims to aid teachers in becoming more Deaf aware, and help students achieve their potential in both academia and in life.



# Netball Skills and Teamwork

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**By Miss Harper**  
*Teacher of English*

Of all the revelations to come from another Covid-year, one of the least expected and anticipated has to be my netball comeback. I use the word 'comeback' in the loosest possible sense: I haven't played netball in approximately five hundred years, and even then the quality of said netball was below average at best. At many times over the past few months of Friday afternoon netball, I have felt woefully inadequate, staggering around in a bright red bib, chasing after a ball that sixth formers seem so much better at controlling. After months of lockdown inertia, however, netball has become my favourite way to round off the week, let off some steam and actually get my heart above a flatline.

I joined netball for exercise, yes, but I also really wanted to connect with other staff members and colleagues outside of my department and across the school. It has been so much fun to get to know people through the camaraderie and, to be honest, the sheer suspension of reality of what is essentially lobbing a ball around and trying to get it into a net. And caring about it so darn much when it misses. I have learnt so much about my colleagues, things I wouldn't know if netball wasn't a thing: Miss Crawford's laser beam focus and precision; Miss Dixon's defensive bravery; Mrs Knight's JLS appreciation; Miss O'Horan's hilarious wind-ups as she tries to psych out players, whether they're in opposition or on her own team;

Mr Roberts' unparalleled stamina that puts us all to shame; and Miss Brown's actual talent, that elevates our chances of success exponentially. Netball really has been such a laugh, so desperately needed after a couple of years where school life for staff, as well as students, has felt isolated and contained, for obvious reasons.

Then, of course, there are the sixth formers, who are such good sports. It was clear early on that they had a significant advantage over the teachers, namely that many of them had trained, played on a team together and actually knew how to nail footwork. They have an assortment of skills and know-how between them, not least their memorable tactic of calling out and tricking the opposing team to pass the ball to them by accident. I fell for it. Twice.

Nevertheless, it has been so nice to get to know the students and watch some lovely teamwork between them. I'm not going to lie, there is always the residual fear and potential awkwardness of accidental clattering, and I know they felt particularly wary when Mrs Angus joined in one afternoon, but they play with infectious gusto and energy that is heart-warming to see. They have even played in an array of boots, jeans and other non-specialised sportswear, with various degrees of success, so eager they have been to join in.

So if you see a bunch of teachers galumphing around after some students on the courts come week's end, you're not entering delirium: it's our Friday afternoon netball situation. You may hear random shrieks and bellows of 'to the line!' but, rest assured, a huge amount of fun is most certainly being had and, of course, plenty of space for you to come and join in.



*It has been so nice to get to know the students and watch some lovely teamwork between them.*

# Christmas Community Concert

By Mr Manning

As our Christmas Community Concert was sadly postponed this year due to the current climate, our fabulous students and staff took the initiative to bring our festive cheer out into the community.

We enlisted some of our very talented students who were due to perform at our concert and gave them a slightly different (albeit a bit of a colder) stage to perform on: the streets of Keyworth.

Miss Heaphy led the way with her vocal talents, with our choir of wonderful singers armed with a repertoire of Christmas classics to modern day hits.

It wasn't only Christmas songs that our choir delivered but also some festive treats baked by our very own Mrs Youngson.

The Christmas trail included stop-off singing points at Windmill Court, as well as Keyworth shops, spreading Christmas cheer and home baked goods along the way.

Well done to our wonderful Christmas team!



Click on the link below to see a video singing "Last Christmas"

<https://youtu.be/IFobjZQdujY>



# Christmas Card Competition

*By Mrs Hunt*

It is the season to celebrate Christmas and what better way to send our greetings to our local community than through a beautifully designed festive card? Our Year 10 students have once again risen to the challenge of creating exciting and imaginative designs for the school's Christmas Card competition.

This year, the competition has been made even more exciting by opening up the competition to all of our Art and Design course students across the ADT faculty to include Fine Art, Textiles, Photography, Graphics and Product Design students. We have had a fantastic response with 37 quality entries for this year's competition, once again making it very challenging to choose the winning design!

This year's winners are Luke H and Rebecca B. Congratulations to Luke and Rebecca – your designs have been made into Christmas cards which have been sent out to our partner schools as well as organisations and businesses within our local school community and across the region. Both students have been presented with a prize from Mrs Angus to thank the students for representing our school.

Thank you to all the students who took part for your hard work, effort and time that you dedicated to produce creative, interesting designs, and for making it so difficult to choose a winner!

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas from all in the ADT faculty.

