



LPS NEWSLETTER

A message from the Head



Leicester
Partnership
School

Issue 41 December 2022



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Welcome to this bumper edition of our Autumn Newsletter. It really feels like we are getting back to some kind of normality now! You will see from this edition that staff and students have been involved in a whole host of exciting activities and events this academic year.

Students have celebrated Diwali and Black History Month by hosting visits from outside speakers and performers and have also raised money for Children in Need by planning & organising a Coffee morning.

Our Key Stage 4 students are doing well on their academic & vocational courses and there is a special mention for one of our students – Jameson Davis – who was recently rewarded for being Student of the Month by Enstruct, one of our Alternative Provision Partners.

Our AP Taskforce Team is continuing to provide specialist support and advice to some of our students and their families and in this edition we introduce you to another member of our team. Our ICT team have also produced a short article about on-line safety, which I hope that you will find informative.

At the end of this Newsletter I have also provided some information about the City Council's Household Support Fund & Energy Advice Pop-Up Event.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Xmas & Happy New Year!

Shaun Whittingham (Head Teacher)



Dates for your Diary:-

We break up for the Christmas holiday on
Friday 16th December 2022

Students return to school, following the Christmas Holidays,
on
Wednesday 4th January 2023



School News – Children in Need



We Raised
£274

On the 18th November 2022 we ran a Children in Need Coffee Morning. Our Key Stage 3 Students were involved in planning and delivering this event. They produced invitations and delivered these to our neighbours and they also helped to serve coffee and cakes on the day. We were joined by a number of our neighbours who seemed to enjoy themselves. We all ended up eating too much cake!



ONCE AGAIN THANK
YOU TO ALL OUR
NEIGHBOURS &
FRIENDS FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!



1. Kay - Our Art Teacher baked a cake which was our top raffle prize!



2. Some of our staff dressed up as Pudsey.



3. Pudsey gave everybody a warm welcome.



4. Everyone enjoyed coffee & cake.

5. Maria's cake won the best cake competition



❄️ It was a special day ❄️

On the 24th November 2022 we hosted a visit from a school improvement inspector and some of our colleagues from two Leicester Special Schools. We were delighted to receive the following positive feedback

There is a clear nurturing environment across the school, and the support for pupils is purposeful with clear personalisation. Staff are skilled at developing relationships, they have the confidence to be flexible in their approach, especially when dealing with issues.

There is warmth from staff towards the pupils. The personal development curriculum is a flexible well-structured provision that meets the needs of the pupils.

Qualifications are part of the school life and expectations of pupils across key stage 3 and 4. This gives pupils a sense of purpose to work. The modular approach supports the high mobility of pupils, especially in KS4. Functional skills qualifications are utilised well, especially for those pupils operating at entry level.

There are a variety of pathways at KS4 which are all linked to vocational work experience. Pupils are tracked into post 16 - 80% have sustained their destinations.

There is a clear progression in learning from KS3 and 4.

The school has worked hard on the personal development programme and it is suitable and effective.

There are excellent examples of projects supporting pupils eg Children in Need, Black History, and Mental Health Week – these are supported through guest speakers.



The Personal Development curriculum is strong

The curriculum is well planned, has excellent coverage and is easy to use. The data for the PD curriculum is clear and shows good progress.

The KS4 offer is strong

Pupils get to experience vocational opportunities, work-based opportunities and a qualification in PD. The use of a high-quality vocational provider supports the success of placements and the offer is genuinely bespoke to the needs of the pupils. The offer provides an aspirational 'next step' in PD for KS3 pupils.

The wider PD offer is strong

Real life opportunities or encounters give pupils the chance to contextualise their learning and apply their knowledge and skills.

The school excels at transition

From the way a pupil transitions between home and school and from one lesson to the next, right through to how they transition to past or future settings, the school ensure time, capacity and support is dedicated to making it a success.

The school is a highly nurturing environment

This includes the reflection areas, the chickens, the nurture lessons, their use of the hub as a therapeutic, safe space, the REACH approach and its focus on the celebration and reward.

The school has clear systems in place to support and enhance personal development.

Examples include REACH, the ABC system, supportive communication between teams, CPD for staff, all of which are bespoke to the needs of the cohort.

The following are additional things we noticed and wished to also celebrate:

Pupil voice demonstrates that they are positive about the PD offer.

British Values are apparent, running throughout the offer at the school. The British Values Passport means teachers can ensure all the agreed values are covered.

The school has positive relations with the agencies they use to ensure they can continue the strong PD provision in the case of staff absence.



News & Updates ...



VOCATIONAL SUCCESSES

This Academic year LPS students have made a promising start to their vocational packages. The new Year 10 learners have settled well into a new way of learning and travelling independently to their chosen courses and the Year 11 learners are progressing well and on course to achieve their vocational qualifications.

This academic year we have added 2 new Alternative Provisions to the LPS portfolio and are pleased to now have FSD ACADEMY and CLOVER LEARNING COMMUNITY as Provisions LPS learners can now access. FSD ACADEMY is a new football based sports provision run by ex-Leicester City footballer Matt Piper and CLOVER LEARNING COMMUNITY based in Blaby, offers a variety of qualifications ranging from Arts, Beauty and Woodcraft in a nurturing and supported setting.

A special mention has to go to LPS Year 11 student Jameson Davis who received a brand new pair of top range work boots for achieving Student of the Month from the Staff at Enstruct Construction. Jameson has worked really hard and has maintained a high level of work, attendance, motivation and work output to achieve this special recognition.

Pran Pancholi
Vocational Placement Manager



Jameson Davis Receiving his Student of the Month Award from staff at Enstruct Training.



Antigua and Barbuda Expo 2022

An outstanding piece of a students' English project work on the theme of 'Dream Holidays', was exhibited at a special exposition evening to celebrate Antigua and Barbuda's 41st day of independence in early November. The student chose these destinations for her project because of her family heritage and a member of staff from LPS was present to explain to people how the work evolved.

The evening event, held at The City Rooms, Leicester, had many Antiguan and Barbudan dignitaries and celebrities, including the High Commissioner and the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Three members of the West Indian cricket team were also present.

The organisers of the event were so impressed with the student's presentation, that they sent a gift for her; which included lots of Antiguan and Barbudan goodies and also included a collectable miniature cricket bat signed by the players Andy Robinson, Curtly Ambrose and Richie Richardson. The student was absolutely thrilled by it all.



The work our students completed around the theme of "Our Dream Holidays – Antigua & Barbuda"

More News & Updates ...

Online Safety / e-safety

Keeping young people safe online (especially vulnerable young people) is critically important in the world we live in.

The sheer number of websites and content from social media means that the chance of young people viewing harmful or inappropriate content is greater than ever.

At the LPS, as well as online safety being a compulsory part of our curriculum, we employ a number of systems and services to protect our young people online and to help keep them safe. Almost all of these are requirements from the DfE in terms of the safeguarding of our students, but we also employ an additional onsite only system called Impero which allows us to respond immediately to any potential safeguarding issues.

Out of necessity and in line with DfE advice and requirements, we recently updated our e-safety page on our website.

As well as the leaflets, we now have an online safety video (created in-house) giving general advice and talking about social media. There are also many links to some fantastic websites full of advice and guidance for parents, grandparents, carers and professionals.

Type this link in a web browser to go to the page:

bit.ly/lpsafety

or scan this QR code with your mobile device:



MEET ANOTHER MEMBER OF OUR APT TEAM

CARL ROBERTS

POST 16'S MANAGER



What is your favourite

Food - Now I'm a vegan I would have to say its Ackee & fried dumplings.

Drink - I love a cup of tea.

Colour - My favourite colour is Red like the red of Anfield.

Celebrity - Bob Marley.

What is your role in the APT? -
Post 16's Manager.

What do you do in a typical day? -
Visit year 11's in provisions, liaise with staff and parents.

What do you enjoy most about your job? - Developing a positive relationship with young people.

What is the biggest challenge that you face in your job? - Motivating young people to realise their potential.



More News & Updates ...



DIWALI & BLACK HISTORY EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS



The events team cranked it up a gear this year... We did some gospel singing with the EAGA Choir, Britain's got talent semi finalists. Then we worked with Nurpur Arts, a Bollywood dance company, as part of our black history month and Diwali.

I took a kinaesthetic approach using all the senses this year and we offered Caribbean food from G.Ma's Kitchen & Indian snacks which the students enjoyed so much.

Everyone joined in and enjoyed the day at each event. Ellis from Maple stated, *"It was a fun time at both the event days & the food was nice too"*.

More events will be taking place in the run up to Christmas.

Lesley Crooks – Drama Teacher



DRAMA – AQA AWARD



Some of our Key Stage 3 students have completed their AQA qualification in Drama. One of the requirements of this Award was to plan a theatre visit. We all decided to go to see *Sleeping Beauty* at Loughborough Town Hall.

The show was spectacular and the students thoroughly enjoyed it. We will be doing a similar AQA Award next year too, due to the success & popularity of this event.



All students passed their Drama qualification and will receive their certificates very soon.

Lesley Crooks [Drama Teacher] .





Parent / Carer Information.



Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund aims to help households in most need with food or energy bill vouchers or even essential kitchen equipment in certain circumstances.

Am I eligible?

This scheme aims to support those who have not received financial support from the government's Cost of Living payments and the previous phase of the Household Support Fund. The scheme also aims to support those on a low income, have limited savings, and are particularly at risk due to factors such as disabilities or caring for young children.

Can I apply myself?

You can apply yourself if you need help only with:

- food
- energy bills (including heating, cooking, lighting and water).
- A professional will refer you if you also need any of the following:
- essential kitchen equipment (cookers, fridge freezers, microwaves and washing machines)
- in exceptional cases, support with housing costs.

A referrer can also complete an application on your behalf.

What will I need to provide?

You will be asked to provide evidence of your circumstances, such as:

- last two months bank statements and;
- a recent energy bill showing how much you owe.

Please have these ready to upload with your application form if you are submitting an application online by yourself.

How will I receive support?

We will look at the information in your application to see what support you need. If your application is successful, your award will be made in the following ways:

- an e-voucher for food.
- an e-voucher or credit onto your bill for gas, electricity, district heating, water/sewerage
- In exceptional cases, rent payments will be made directly to your rent account or landlord.

Where can I use my food e-vouchers?

If you are awarded an e-voucher, you will need to go online to convert this into a gift card for one of the following supermarkets. You can then spend the gift card in store

**Aldi, Iceland, Morrisons, Tesco,
Sainsbury's, Asda, Company Shop Group,
Farmfoods.**

Energy advice pop-up event

British Gas is running free community pop-up events in Leicester to support people struggling to pay their energy bills. The next event will be within the Post Office on Gallowtree Gate on 13 December.

Further information ...

Anyone seeking financial or practical energy advice is invited to come along and speak to trained British Gas energy debt advisors who will provide free, independent support.

If you know of someone who is struggling with the rise in living costs, please tell them about Better Off Leicester to find out if they are entitled to any benefits or support – go to

leicester.gov.uk/betteroff



If you type this link into your browser it will take you to the City Council's Household Support Fund Web Page.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/benefits-and-support/household-support-fund/>