



The Winsford Academy

Issue 8

Friday 2nd December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

My colleagues and I are delighted with how many of our students come to school ready to learn. The response from students to our “stars for chocolate” incentive scheme continues to be excellent, and we will continue running this through until the end of the year, not least because of the dozens of very positive conversations between staff and students that it generates at the end of every school day.

This term we were pleased to welcome back to the Academy the internationally renowned storyteller Jake Evans. Jake has been working not only with our own Year 7 students but also with children from some of our partner primary schools and it has been a real pleasure to have these children join us here in school. Jake’s work in the Academy is part of our wider focus on literacy and communication through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. These essential skills underpin everything we do across the whole curriculum and out to the absolute heart of literacy is the central role of reading. I’m delighted therefore that we are participating once again in the Cheshire schools reading award. This countywide award scheme is run in partnership between schools and the County Library service. Across the county students will be nominating books that they have read for this award and later in the school year will be voting for the winner. This is a great way of promoting reading and discussing with students the books they have read and enjoyed. Parents have an important part to play in this process. Please do ask students about the books they are reading and what they think of them.

I’m also very pleased to announce that the Academy will be hosting a local event as part of the Diana anti bullying award scheme. This scheme was established in memory of the late Princess of Wales and trains both primary and secondary students to act as anti-bullying ambassadors in their schools and in their community. Hosting the training events which involve both primary and secondary children and which can draw children from schools across a very

wide area is a real privilege and I am very grateful to Mrs Tringham who has successfully led the application process for us to become a host school. This will be both an important opportunity for our own students to play a key role in supporting others in the Academy and also a chance to showcase the Academy to other schools.

It has been very noticeable how much more smoothly lunch times have gone this half term, while it does not completely eliminate queueing, does reduce waiting time considerably. We have also listened to what students and parents have said about access to the toilets as well as consulting some other schools who have been managing this issue slightly differently. We have introduced a system of lesson passes and have been monitoring access which does seem to be working very well. We will of course keep these arrangements under review.

We received some amazing news this week. We have had colleagues and students shortlisted for multiple awards at the Mid Cheshire Education Awards. The Guardian said “*It’s a fantastic achievement to be shortlisted for so many awards!*”

High School Teacher of the Year – Oliver Bancroft
Unsung Hero Award – Corrine Leech
Unsung Hero Award – Lorraine Ball
Pupil of the Year – Robyn Ridgway
Pupil of the Year – Kelsie Ventre

The event is being held virtually on Thursday 8th December 2022 and is being hosted by Dr Hilary Jones from Good Morning Britain. We are very proud of them and wish them the best of luck!

As ever, if you have any comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me on laura.halsall@winsfordacademy.org.uk.

Ms L Halsall
Principal





The Winsford Academy



*The Winsford Academy
presents
A Christmas Concert*



Wednesday 7th December, 2022, 7.00pm

*Tickets are available to purchase for £1.00 online via Parentpay.
Tickets won't be available to purchase on the evening.*



The Winsford Academy



Congratulations to the winners of the first Key Stage 3 Numeracy Competition.

1st – Brooke A

2nd – Harry H

3rd – Jemimah R

There are more chances to win a prize before the Christmas break.

If you are in Year 7, 8 or 9 then you can enter the second Numeracy competition and the Christmas Themed Numeracy Competition.

Just follow this link <https://winsford.academy/numeracy-competitions/> or look under News and Events on the school website.

The work from Anti-Bullying week continues.

We have launched our Anti-Bullying Advocate scheme and have asked each Form group to nominate an Advocate.

Those pupils will receive training in how to be an effective Advocate for people in their form and Year Group and to work with others to promote our anti-bullying message.

Uptake has been good so far and we look forward to bringing you some of the work that the Advocates do over the coming months.

Any form of bullying can be reported via the Academy website by clicking on the links below:





The Winsford Academy

The Council, alongside Edsential and a range of community partners, are running a wide range of fantastic activities for the Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme (HAF) that will run throughout the school winter holiday.

The HAF Programme is funded nationally and provides funding for local organisations to provide activities for children and young people during the holidays, helping them to access healthy food and take part in fun activities over the school holidays.

Over the winter there will be a wide range of HAF programmes delivered across the borough by our local partners.

Community interest company, Edsential, is working with 24 organisations, including schools, community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, to organise 32 holiday activity clubs throughout the borough this winter period. The holiday clubs will provide local children and families with the following.

- Good quality healthy meals and snacks, with some family cooking sessions plus food and nutritional education.
- A variety of directly delivered physical activities such as, climbing, swimming, yoga, golf, judo, skateboarding, dance and drama workshops.
- Diverse enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, musical theatre, carol singing, archery, street dance, mindfulness, forest school, trips to Chester Zoo and local Pantos.

These sessions can be booked via the Edsential website.

Youth Zones for 11-16 year olds (up to 25 for our SEND children and young people)

Youth Zones, operated by the Council's Youth Service, will be providing eligible children and young people across the borough with a winter offer.

Youth Zones will be open across the borough and all families of children and young people who are eligible for free school meals will be able to register to attend our winter fun activity programme. All children and young people will be offered a healthy balanced hot meal.

Our winter programme will include a Christmas party, including arts and crafts, games and sports and a trip

out. If you would like more information, please email: EHPChesterandRural@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

A number of organisations have been funded to deliver SEND specific HAF provision across the borough, the varied offer will include sessions for children and young people with an identified need, some sessions will also offer places to their siblings these include ten pin bowling, trampolining, simple cycling and a wide variety of other sessions such as sensory play, festive fun and crafts and disco along with the opportunity to attend the theatre to see a pantomime, food workshops, community cookery, swim sessions and lots lot's more. A healthy meal will be provided at every session for the children and young people in attendance.

For more information, please email: AimingHighForDisabledChildren@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk.

Criteria/eligibility for the programme

This holiday provision is for school aged children from reception to year 11 (inclusive) who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals.

Benefits-related free school meals (FSM) are available to pupils if their parents are in receipt of one of the qualifying benefits, and have a claim verified by their school or local authority. [Further information on eligibility for free school meals](#)

Cost of living support

It is currently a really challenging time for a number of families across west Cheshire. Families may be worried about the rising cost of energy bills, food, and transport. The cost of living is rising, and this could have an impact on all aspects of finances. Visit: [Cost of living support](#)

Household Support Fund payments for children in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)

Payments for households in receipt of FSM will be made to schools week commencing 5 December. Each eligible family will receive £20 per week, per child, so in total £40 per pupil for the two-week Winter holiday period.



The Winsford Academy

Remembrance Sunday

This is such an important event in our national calendar both locally and nationally and for schools, especially, it is so important that we help the next generation to understand the service and sacrifice of those that have gone before. That is why we held a minute's silence supported by online assemblies on 11th November (and why I was so impressed with the impeccable way that our students as they marked this very solemn moment). It is also why I was so proud of our students who joined me on Sunday to join in the laying of the Academy's wreath. It was a real privilege to represent the Academy at such an important community event.



The year 7 girls football team beat Alsager 6-4 at Alsager.

We were 4-0 comfortably but they pressed hard in the second half to bring it back to 4-4. A few changes were made and we were then fully back on track. Goals soon followed by Amelia S and Esme E brought us back to a win of 6-4. Goals scored by Eris, Ella H, Amelia, Summer J, and Esme.

I am so proud of the girls and the way they play. They show skill, composure and a desire to win.

The girls play 'for' each other not just 'with' each other. Their out of school coach Rob is a coaching genius who has worked with the girls for a long time and has developed them into a highly skilled cohesive team that show determination at all times.

Parents come to watch these games which makes it even better as we love the support they show from the side-lines. Were through to the next round of the cup, something the school has never achieved with a year 7 team.

Mrs Bedson



The Winsford Academy

Lunch-Time Clubs



Monday

C35 Lunch Club
HUB Lunch Club—C Floor
Reading Club - B23
Number Study Zone - B57
History Revision - C14 and C11
Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Football - 3G
Year 7, 8, 9 and GCSE Drama Rehearsals
Year 7, 8 and 9 Dance Club and GCSE Rehearsals
B1
Year 7 & 8 Chess Club - A98
Visual Arts GCSE Independent Portfolio Club



Tuesday

C35 Lunch Club
HUB Lunch Club—C Floor
Reading Club - B23
Number Study Zone - B57
Food Technology KS4 Coursework - A1
Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 Football - 3G
Year 7, 8 and 9 Centre Stage Drama Club
Year 7, 8 and 9 Dance Club & GCSE Rehearsals
B1
Melodix Singing Club
Year 7 & 8 Chess Club - A98



Wednesday

C35 Lunch Club
Hub Lunch Club—C Floor
Reading Club - B23
Number Study Zone- B57
Year 7 - 11 Film Club - C10
Year 7 Spanish Club - C9
Debate Club—B19
Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 Football - 3G
Food Technology KS4 Coursework - A1 and A4
Cook Club A1 & A4
Health & Social Care Y11 Portfolio A1 & A4
Year 7, 8, 9 and GCSE Drama Rehearsals



THURSDAY

C35 Lunch Club
HUB Lunch Club —C Floor
Reading Club - B23
Number Study Zone - B57
Year 7, 8, 10 and 11 Football - 3G
Northern Attitude - boys singing group
K-Pop - C13
Visual Arts GCSE Independent Portfolio Club
LGBTQ+ Club—Drama Studio
Astronomy Club—C17



Friday

C35 Lunch Club
HUB Lunch Club—C Floor
Reading Club - B23
Number Study Zone— B57
David Attenborough Club - C17
Year 7, 8, 9 and 11 Football - 3G
Visual Arts GCSE Independent Portfolio Club





The Winsford Academy

Pre-Ordering at Lunchtime

We have fully launched our pre-ordering service that allows you to pre-order meals at lunchtime will reduce the amount of time students spend queuing

- . All students have been given a letter with code and instructions on how to download the app.



So, what can you do with Fusion Online?

Check your balance

No longer do you need to queue at a device in the school to check whether you have enough funds remaining to order that meal you've been thinking about; you can now check your balance at home or at any time of day.

Order your food in advance

Obviously, the most important part of a pre-order service is the ability to order food in advance, and you can do precisely that.

Show your unique order number and our canteen staff will have your food ready and waiting for you to collect, no queues, no hassle!

View your upcoming meal selections

If you've placed multiple pre-orders, it's easy to check what you've ordered from within the app. We'll show you all your meal choices along with your unique order number, so that when it's time to collect your food all you need to do is turn up and show your order number.

**If you haven't received the letter please email
admin@winsfordacademy.org.uk.**



The Winsford Academy

Year 8 rowers met with Mat Langridge, Olympic gold medal winner at the 2016 Olympics in Rio in the men's 8. Mat went to Hartford High school and learnt to row at Northwich rowing club.

The students continued to practice their skills on the water and develop their fitness on the indoor rowing machines. Lucia S is the outstanding student of the week





The Winsford Academy

Recipe of the Week - Lazy Vegetarian Lasagne

Our year 8 students have been making lazy vegetarian lasagne in their Food studies lessons

Ingredients

1 onion	1 vegetable stock cube
1 clove garlic	1 egg
1 carrot	6 sheets lasagne
1 courgette	150ml natural yogurt
½ pepper	150ml skimmed milk
100g mushrooms	50g hard cheese
1 tsp dried herbs	500ml passata

Method

Wash your hands and get the ingredients and equipment ready.

Turn on oven to gas mark 4/180°C

Peel and chop the onion and peel and crush the garlic

Put the onion and garlic in a saucepan and `dry fry` for 1-2 minutes

Add the grated carrot, grated courgette, pepper and mushrooms to the pan with the stock cube and the passata.

Cook until the vegetables are tender then add the herbs.

Layer the vegetables in the sauce between the lasagne sheets into an oven proof dish.

In a measuring jug, mix together the egg, yoghurt, milk and half the grated cheese.

Pour the mixture over the top of the lasagne. Sprinkle on the remaining cheese.

Bake in the oven for 20 mins until golden

If you have a go at making this dish at home it would be great to see a picture of your finished product – you can send it to:

Gillian.Poole@winsfordacademy.org.uk



The Winsford Academy

Cost-of-living support

Find out what help and support is available to you and your family as the cost-of-living crisis continues to bite.

Get in touch with us to let us know if you're struggling with your finances

admin@winsfordacademy.org.uk

We know everyone is feeling the pinch this winter and we want to support those families in our school community who are impacted the most. If you're struggling with your finances, please do get in touch to let us know, as there may be things we can suggest which will help. We want to do everything we can to help you and your child through this difficult winter.

Contact your local Citizen's Advice Bureau

Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB)

You don't have to be a UK citizen to get support from your local CAB, you just need to be a resident of the local area. The CAB can help you with:

- ➔ Getting benefits or other financial support organised
- ➔ Accessing support for essential costs (food, bills, rent)

Visit the Citizens Advice website or contact your local branch to book an appointment <https://www.citizensadvicecw.org.uk/winsford/>

Check you're paying the right amount of tax

Make sure you're on the right tax code. If you aren't you might be due a refund. Use the Money Saving Experts free tax code calculator to find out. <https://www.moneysavingexpert.com/family/check-tax-code/>

Claim any benefits you're entitled to

Use 1 of these benefits calculators to determine whether there are any benefits you could be claiming:

[Turn2us](#)

[Policy in Practice](#)

[Support for migrant families](#) – use this calculator if you are a migrant family, or if you have no recourse to public funds

You may be able to get benefits paid early if you're already feeling the squeeze - this is known as 'a short-term benefit advance' - you will need to contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) office that's dealing with your claim.



The Winsford Academy

Check you've received all the government's cost of living payments

The government's [cost of living payment](#) is available for those receiving certain benefits or tax credits. You don't need to apply for these – if you're eligible the money should go straight into your account.

If you think you're due a payment, but haven't received one – [report a missing payment](#) to the government here.

Be aware of scams! If you receive any emails, texts or phone calls asking you to fill in an application form or asking for your bank details to receive a cost of living payment, **do not talk to them or send a reply**. Get more information on [cost of living scams](#) on the Money Saving Expert's website

Find out what help you can get with your energy bills

Take a look at these resources from [Simple Energy Advice](#), the [British Gas Energy Trust](#) and the [Money Saving](#)

Let us know if your child is entitled to free school meals (FSM)

If your child is eligible for free school meals (FSM) you need to get them registered. This will allow them to get a free meal at school, and we'll get extra funding to support your child's learning. [Apply for free school meals](#)

Get free or low-cost food

If you have a child under 4, and meet the eligibility criteria, you may be entitled to [healthy start food vouchers](#)

[Mid Cheshire Foodbank](#)

[Winsford Community Grocery Hub](#)

See what other support you can get from your local authority

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/useful-resources-and-information-for-the-school-holidays>

Further information

- Contact [StepChange](#), if you're struggling with debt
- Contact [Shelter](#) if you're having issues related to housing
- Get free household goods on [Freecycle](#)
- Contact the [Salvation Army](#) for emergency assistance
- See if you're eligible for [grants from Tum2us](#)
- Single parents can get support from [Gingerbread](#)



The Winsford Academy

£1.00 Winter Warmer Meal Deals

We have introduced a selection of meal deal pots for only £1.00 in our “Winter Warmer Meal Deals”

Chicken Korma and Rice

Chinese Chicken and Rice

Chilli Beef and Rice

Italian Meatballs in tomato Sauce & Pasta

Spicy Sausage in Tomato Sauce & Pasta

Sweet and Sour Chicken & Noodles

Creamy Tomato and Mascarpone sauce & Pasta

These will be available to order online and to buy at the counter.