

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Carers

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news—Welland Park Academy has been named one of the Leicester Mercury Top 20 schools for 2024, based on the latest Department for Education data! An impressive 64.2% of our Year 11 students achieved Grade 5 or above in both English and Maths. This achievement is a true testament to their dedication, hard work, and resilience, as well as the incredible support of our staff and parents. Congratulations to everyone involved in this success!

On Wednesday, we were delighted to host VASL (Voluntary Action South Leicestershire) for their Christmas visit. Our Year 11 students once again showed their warm hospitality, making our visitors feel incredibly welcome. The guests even said it's their favourite event of the year! The day was made extra special by a visit from Santa Claus himself, fully dressed for the occasion. Events like these are so important for fostering connections between generations, and our students thoroughly enjoyed hearing the stories and life experiences of our visitors. A huge thank you to Mrs. Burgess for organising this memorable afternoon.

Yesterday saw staff and students arrive at school in varying items of festive wear. We had jumpers, tinsel, socks, headbands and lots more all in aid of Save The Children. As a school we raised over £750 which is an amazing achievement.

The Prom Committee will be holding their final fundraiser of the year on Friday afternoon. There will be a showing of the brand new Christmas film RED ONE. Tickets go on sale on Monday and will cost £4 each. The performance will start at 1.00pm.

A few reminders as we approach the festive season:

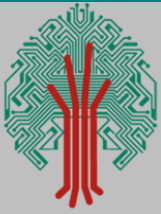
- Term ends next Friday, 20th December. Please note that school will close at **12:25 pm**, following an extended breaktime. It will also be a **non-uniform day**, and we kindly remind students to wear appropriate clothing for school.
- The new term begins on **Monday, 6th January** at the usual time. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for an exciting term ahead.
- A reminder to Year 11 parents that the second virtual progress evening of the academic year is scheduled for **Wednesday, 16th January**. Booking details will be sent out nearer the time, so please save the date.

As we approach the festive break, I want to thank you all for your continued support and engagement with Welland Park Academy. We are so proud of everything our students have accomplished so far this term and look forward to even greater achievements in 2024.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Pete Leatherland—Principal





Spreading Joy and Combatting Loneliness in the Community

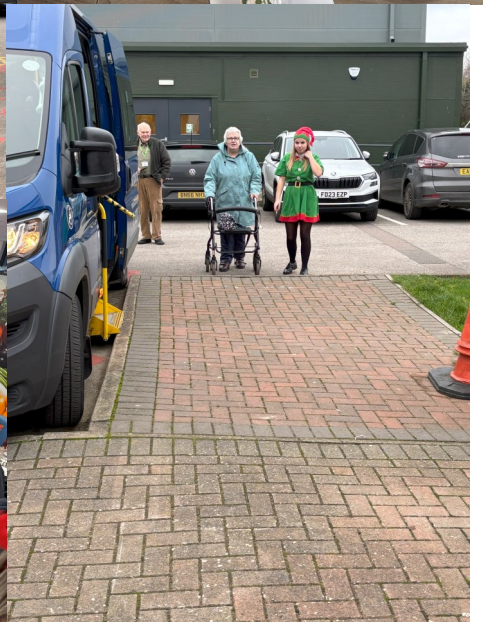
On Wednesday, our students teamed up with **Voluntary Action South Leicestershire** to help combat loneliness among the over-60s in our community.

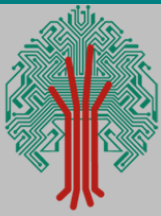
Some of the students dressed up as a cheerful Santa and elves and they all brought festive spirit to the event by serving refreshments, hosting friendly chats, and spreading smiles throughout the afternoon. The event was further enriched by a free raffle, which added an extra layer of excitement and fun for all attendees. Students had also written Christmas cards to all of the guests and presented them each with a small gift.

The opportunity to engage with members of the community was both meaningful and rewarding. It highlighted the importance of connection, especially for older individuals who may feel isolated. Our students were exceptional in their efforts, showing compassion, enthusiasm, and kindness in every interaction.

We are proud to support initiatives like this that make a positive difference in people's lives. A big thank you to Mrs Burgess for organising such a fantastic event, and well done to our Year 11 Health & Social Care students for making it so memorable!

We look forward to seeing VASL again in March.





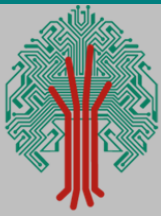
CHRISTMAS MOVIE FUNDRAISER

The Prom Committee will be showing RED ONE on
Friday 20th December 2024 at 1pm

Tickets on sale at the front office from Monday 16th December

£4.00





HARRY POTTER—VISIT 2



This Tuesday, it was our 2nd Harry Potter trip to the Studios. And what a wonderful start to December. Hogwarts really was in the Christmas spirit - even more so than two weeks' ago.

Privy to genuine props in close proximity, we were inches from Hagrid's stunt double head used in the motorbike swirly tunnel scene, we looked at original storyboards of deleted scenes and we also saw rejected blue prints for Hagrid's Hut that had taken months to complete. We also learnt about director Alfonso Cuarón's particular demand for trees to be flown from all over the world to Scotland, completing his vision – all illustrating to the children that not everything is perfect – resilience and perseverance is key - some things take lots of time and effort. The Warner Bros Team reinforced to the students that being able to take constructive criticism was paramount in this line of business and part of the progress.

As before, we got to see Hogwarts in the snow and be enthralled by candles in mid air and saucepans moving of their own accord. All areas were Christmassy and complete with glowing puddings and flying parcels. Those of us fond of a cuppa or two, were entranced by the large Christmas tree decorated with teacups and saucers, as part of Prof Sybill Trelawney's Divination display, a recent replacement of Voldemort's death scene with Nagini (the snake) and the Muggle Studies teacher Charity Burbage, which was a far less 'festive' scene. Students were certainly enchanted by the beautiful Buckbeak who greeted us in the snowy Forbidden Forest and all braved the Ukrainian Ironbelly Dragon in the destroyed and burning Gringott's Bank. Some students met with a Death Eater and a few got to handle werewolf prosthetics watching the demonstration on dirty fingernails.

I spoke to a family that had flown in from Transylvania and a family from group from California who were very impressed with our students behaviour and maturity. It was extremely busy, as you'd expect, but with a few gentle reminders, everyone did the school and country proud. Well done everyone.

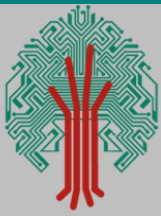
Thanks to all staff, students and parents/guardians for their support on this trip.

Mrs N Holloway (aka Prof Holloway of Slytherin House)

Any Year 7s who went on the trip in November or December, there is a small competition, in which, if they wish to take part, they need to submit their best photo and an exciting description or review of their memorable moments there. The winner will have their work published in the Newsletter and will receive a Harry Potter themed prize.

No more than 300 words.

To be emailed to Mrs Holloway - Deadline 9th January.



PROM 2025 & CAMPS INTERNATIONAL
EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY BREAK UNTIL FEBRUARY HALF TERM
served from the outside hatch of the dining hall



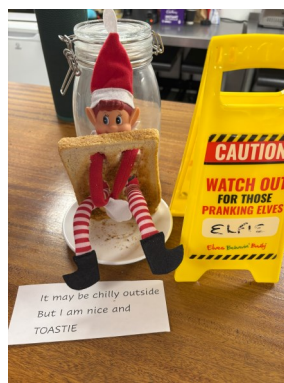
Hot Chocolate - £1.00
Hot Chocolate & Sweet Treat - £1.50

SERVING
Hot Chocolate

Made with PosterMyWall.com

ELFIE AND ELFIS

Elfis, the Front Office Elf and Elfie, the Breakfast Club Elf have been having some more fun this week.





**WELLAND PARK ACADEMY
REVERSE ADVENT EVENT
THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Reverse Advent sees us giving something, rather than receiving something, through the days of December.

This year we are asking for any donations of food and health products which we can then collect and pass onto the Jubilee Foodbank to help them over the Christmas holidays.

We will begin collecting on Monday 2nd December and then for the next twelve school days.

Anything you can give, will be gratefully received and passed on but this is a suggested list of requests:

MONDAY 2nd DECEMBER - DRIED POTATO (EG SMASH)
TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER - TINNED CUSTARD
WEDNESDAY 4th DECEMBER - TINNED POTATOES OR CARROTS
THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER - BOX OF CEREAL
FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER - JAR OF CURRY SAUCE
MONDAY 9th DECEMBER - PACKET OF BISCUITS
TUESDAY 10th DECEMBER - BOTTLE OF CORDIAL / SQUASH
WEDNESDAY 11th DECEMBER - PACKET OF RICE
THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER - CHOCOLATE BARS
FRIDAY 13th DECEMBER - SHOWER GEL / SHAMPOO
MONDAY 16th DECEMBER - PORRIDGE OATS
TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER - TINNED FRUIT

For further details of suggested food donations, please visit the Jubilee Food Bank website at www.jubileefoodbankmh.uk/shopping-list
Thank you for your kindness and support.

In The Welland Park Family,
We Respect
Persevere
Achieve...with kindness

Welland Park Academy Lunch & Deli Menu Week commencing 16th December 2024					
WEEK 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
Concept	Mexican	Year 7, & 8 Christmas lunch	Year 9, 10 & 11 Christmas lunch	American	No lunch today
Option 1	Beef Chilli			American <u>Cheese Burger</u>	Lite bite options available at breaktime
Option 2	Vegetable Chilli			Vegetarian Spicy Burger	
Sides	White Fluffy Rice & sweetcorn	Lite bite items available for other students	Lite bite items available for other students	Wedges & baked beans	
Authentic Italian	Authentic Italian Pizza and Pasta Bar				
Hot Deli	Cheese & Tomato Panini Jacket & Topping	Tuna Melt Panini Jacket & Topping	Cheese & Onion Panini Jacket & Topping	Roasted Veg Panini Jacket & Topping	