



NEWSLETTER

Christmas Edition December 2017



Happy Christmas to you all from the staff and students at The Roundhill Academy. At the end of term, it is important to reflect on the achievements and successes of the school. Following on from our very pleasing set of exam results in the summer, the Year 11 students continue to impress us with their attitude and work ethic in lessons and during their mock exams. We have organised a record number of enrichment trips and visits this year and have seen an improvement in attendance at the school. We have delivered Christmas hampers in the local community, collected goods for the homeless and completed the second Roundhill Run.

Ofsted inspected us in October and the inspectors graded the school as good in all four categories and good overall. The report is available on our school website at the following link <http://www.roundhill.leics.sch.uk/ofsted-report>. The report states that the "Behaviour of pupils is consistently good in lessons and around the school", "Pupils make good and improving progress across most subjects" and that "The skilful work of teachers and leaders has ensured that the expansion of the school to include key stage 4 has had a positive impact on pupils' achievements throughout the key stages".

I hope you have a lovely Christmas and look forward to seeing students back in school on Tuesday 9th January 2018.



This half term in English, Year 8 have been studying the novel 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells, which deals with the issue of homelessness. Students were really affected by this and therefore wanted to do something to help, so as a school we decided to collect donations to the 'Action Homeless' charity's 'Winter Appeal Wish list'. We teamed up with the Year 10 Humanutopia Heroes who baked cakes and sold them in order to buy more wanted items, as well as helping collate the items and deliver them to the charity. We were overwhelmed by the generosity of staff, students and parents alike.

Many thanks to all who contributed.
Mrs Rana and Miss Williams

Behaviour Policy

As a school, we aim to do the best for the children in our care. We have introduced a new behaviour policy in school this term. Staff and student surveys demonstrate that behaviour has improved across the school and that we are more systematic in challenging low-level disruption. However, behaviour only improves when school and home work together to support students. In the majority of cases, parents are able to support the school but occasionally this is not the case. I wish therefore to clarify the school's position in a number of areas:

- If your child is excluded or secluded from school, they will not be able to return to lessons until a meeting has been arranged to discuss your son/ daughter's behaviour. This does not mean that they cannot return to school, but that they will be unable to go to lessons or go out at break and lunch time.
- The government is very clear that schools are able to keep students for after school detentions. We will always notify you, but sometimes it is necessary to keep students that evening as research shows the sooner the sanction takes place after an incident the more impact it has. Please note that it is not for parents to say whether they agree with after school detentions, this is the behaviour policy of the school.
- The school was very clear about uniform expectations at the start of the academic year. We expect these to be followed by all students. If this is not the case then non-uniform items will be confiscated where possible and students will not be in lessons, sanctioned or asked to return home to change their clothes.
- The school will not tolerate the behaviour of students who do not follow basic, reasonable instructions. If students persist with this behaviour then in all likelihood your child will be either placed in seclusion or excluded. This includes, for example, a child refusing to hand over their mobile phone if it is seen or used on the school site.
- If you genuinely have a concern about something at the school, please come and talk to us, our door is always open. Social media sites are not an appropriate forum for genuine concerns. Unfortunately, this year there have been serious consequences for some students for posts that they have made on Facebook and this is when they have replied to comments made by parents. Please support our young people in leading by example. If you have any ideas in how to improve the school, or a group of parents would like to come and meet to discuss concerns, then please let me know.

I ask for your support in one more area. We are really struggling with litter and then, in turn, seagulls. From now on any child seen dropping litter will be given an after school detention and during this detention they will be collecting litter from the school site. Please talk to your son / daughter about the importance of not dropping litter.



Roundhill Family Partnership

The Roundhill Family Partnership is a group of parents who meet to support the school and effect positive change. All parents of children at The Roundhill Academy are automatically part of TRFP.

Dates of future meetings:

Wednesday 24th January 2018 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Wednesday 2nd May 2018 at 6:30pm to 7:30pm

We're supporting



BBC

**Children
in Need**

We raised £328.18

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The Roundhill Academy**



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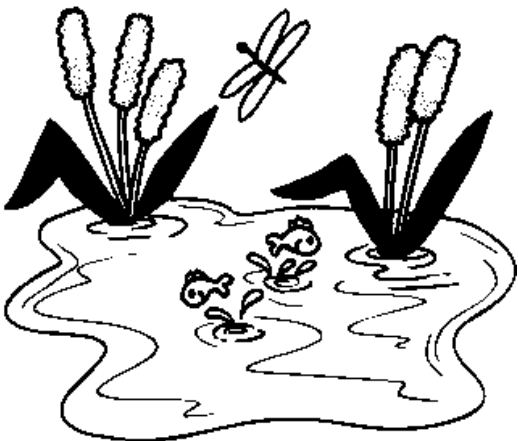
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Science



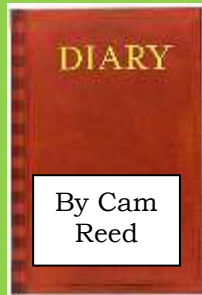
Year 7 Pond Dipping

Early September saw the Year 7 Science classes enjoy a morning pond dipping at the Roundhill Sailing Club. Students walked down to the sailing club, where they spent an hour pond dipping and identifying pond life, before walking back to school. Great fun was had, with many students finding and studying a variety of creatures they had never seen before, including pond snails, water boatmen and may fly larvae.



History

Lincoln Castle



Just after 9:00am, I boarded the coach and headed for Lincoln. After an hour or so, we arrived at Lincoln Castle and separated into our groups. We entered the grounds of the castle at the East Gatehouse. This was the main entry and exit to and from the city in medieval times. The West Gate was very important in medieval times as well as it gave access to the open country.

In 1068, two years after the Battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror built this castle on a pre-existing Roman fortress. William built the first motte, which is stone keep situated on raised mound of earth surrounded by courtyard that it enclosed by a stone wall. Another motte was built and added in the early 12th century.

After that, we went to visit the vault inside the castle. This is where a copy of the Magna Carta agreement is kept. King John of England created the Magna Carta in 1215. The one at Lincoln Castle is only one of four copies that exist today. The Magna Carta is the very start of the English justice system, stating that nobody was above the law, not even the King.

Next, we were to visit the courthouse and saw where the Judges would stand when accused criminals on trial. We then went to see the Victorian prison cells. During Georgian and Victorian times, the castle was mainly used as a jail for criminals or people who could not afford to pay their debts. This Victorian prison was the first to carry out the separation system, keeping each prisoner away from other humans.

After lunch, we took a 5-minute walk to Lincoln Cathedral. Bishop Remigius built this Cathedral. He began building it in 1072 and it was completed in 1029. In 1411, there was a fire in the Cathedral that destroyed its roof. They rebuilt the roof, although I could see a difference between new and old patterns on the inside of the roof. We were told this was because when it was rebuilt they got three quarters of the way and they had to stop because they ran out of money. The central spire collapsed in 1549 and was never rebuilt.



Reflect, Respect, Resilience and Responsibility



Part of our Behaviour Policy states that students are expected to:

- Conduct themselves in ways that support the values of the school, Respectful, Responsible, Resilient and Reflective, this includes being respectful when interacting with members of the public.
- Contribute in a positive way to the school community.

NOTICE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

- We would like to remind students of the importance of safety and the school reputation when not on the school site, this includes travelling to and from school and public places.
- Being safe and responsible when using bikes/scooters on the roads and pathways.
- We also recommend that students wear helmets on bikes/scooters when travelling to and from school.

Students are reminded that while they are wearing The Roundhill Academy uniform they are representing the school and should conduct themselves in a way that does not give the school a bad reputation.

Could we ask parents not pull in or stop along the Melton Road when dropping off or collecting students. There are drop off areas at Asda or the industrial estate opposite the school. The car park across the road should not be used, as this is the designated area for the school bus.

Behaviour Review November 2017

Student Voice

- Would like some smaller rewards below +150 points as an incentive to get points and work hard.
- It is fair that students miss out on positive things for not following the school rules.
- Some teachers do explain redirections and removals really well and we understand why we get them.

Staff Feedback

- Tutors and department leads are more informed and aware of what is going on and more holistic in their approach.
- Overall behaviour standards have improved.
- Relationships and restorative work is much better.
- Once students have lost their reward at the end of the year in the first block, they have nothing to encourage them throughout the year.

We started a new 13 week monitoring block on 4th December 2017 where negative points have been cancelled. We expect to see student behaviour improve further throughout the second block, as they are more aware of the school consequences ladder.

If parents want to feedback, their ideas on the new behaviour policy then please email Miss Blythe.

Year 9 Memorial Project

On 8th November, 15 Year 9 students were involved in a WW1 memorial project working with Sandfield Close Primary School. Earlier in the week, a Historian from Historic England came to our school to train us how to use websites such as ancestry.com and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) to research war veterans from the First World War.

Then on Wednesday, we walked down to Thurmaston War Memorial to meet the students from Sandfield Close Primary School to inspect the memorial. We helped the Year 6 students to research a soldier remembered on the Thurmaston memorial.

We did this because it was coming up to Remembrance Day and it is interesting to find out about a soldier from our own village. This helped us to understand the importance of remembering soldiers who died for us 100 years ago.



MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO BE USED ON THE SCHOOL SITE

Please make sure that your phone is switched off and out of sight from when you arrive and until you leave the school site (including break and lunchtime).

A member of staff will confiscate mobile phones seen on the school site at any time.

If for any reason, a student needs to make a phone call during the school day they can come to the school office.



Emergency Dinner Ticket



Reminder

Dinner ticket money **must** be paid back to the office on the next school day.

A maximum of 3 tickets is issued until outstanding money is paid.

Welcome to our new Attendance Officer

Kirsty Harrup

As part of her role, the Attendance Officer will deal with welfare, frequent and prolonged unexplained absences, and the monitoring of attendance of individual lessons. She will follow up concerns over attendance involving contact with students, parents/carers and, where necessary, will carry out home visits. She will liaise with key staff and outside support agencies.



SAFEGUARDING NEWS

If you have any concerns about the safety of any young person at this school please ask at Reception to speak to any of the following Designated Safeguarding Leads.



James Tickle
Principal



Helen Blythe
Assistant Principal



Michaela Rueben
SENDCO



Jo Parfitt
Head of Student Services

The Roundhill Academy fully recognises the contribution it can make to protect children and support students in school. The aim of the policy is to safeguard and promote our students welfare, safety and health by fostering an honest open, caring and supportive climate. The students welfare is a paramount importance.

School Library

Ongoing Library Book Sale
All books 50p!



**Please support your school library
so that we can buy new books for
YOU!**

**Do you have any unwanted books at home suitable or teenagers?
We would love to give them a home!**

SPORTS NEWS

LOOK OUT FOR COMPETITIONS COMING UP IN THE SPRING TERM FOR KS3 & KS4

GCSE PE Revision Club

There have been a number of students taking the opportunity of extra revision sessions on a Monday after school and Tuesday lunchtimes.

If you have not been along yet come along – you will see an improvement in your grades.



Year 10 Football



Back in October The Roundhill Academy played The Cedars Academy with a much changed team and formation. We played very attacking football that left us short for numbers at the back resulting in us conceding three goals in the first half.

We continued to play attacking football and had several opportunities to score, but unfortunately, we could not convert those shot into goals.

Well done to Spencer making his debut in goal and some solid play from Jake Finnerty.

Better luck next season!

Well done to all who played:

Jake Finnerty, Spencer Baker, Reon Doshi, Ben Barratt, Harvey Huczmann, Kaiden Nash, Harrison Stuart and Joe Hardcastle.