



NEWSLETTER

December 2018



Welcome from the staff and students at The Roundhill Academy to the final newsletter of 2018. I want to thank staff for their hard work and effort throughout the year. Some of our incredible achievements are celebrated here.

The Roundhill Academy is now a world record holder (see separate article), has produced a fantastic performance of Macbeth and was asked to represent the Heartwize charity and meet Prince William after the tragic death of the Leicester City Chairman. Both Vivek Parekh, a Year 11 student and I attended a formal meeting with the Duke of Cambridge during which Vivek demonstrated lifesaving CPR skills on a model. Heartwize is a charity we have worked with for a number of years who deliver CPR training to all Year 10 students across Leicestershire and Rutland.

It is a sad time of year when we say goodbye to a number of colleagues and friends. Mrs Lower from Textiles, Mrs Kurji from Languages and Miss Berridge, Cover Supervisor are all leaving. Also leaving is Sarah Berridge, my PA and Resources Manager. Sarah has worked at the school for over 14 years and looked after me for the 5 and a half years that I have been Principal. Sarah knows more about the school than anybody else knows and will be impossible to replace. I wish them all every success in their future careers.

Many parents will know that during the course of this term there have been a number of comments made on social media sites about the school or individuals working at the school. As always, we encourage all parents to discuss issues with us and not post comments on line. The school maintains its policy of not commenting on any posts but will always speak with parents about any concerns they have for their own children.

After Christmas, as we move towards our next set of GCSE exams, we will be trialling something with our Year 11 students that we may do with all our students next year. This policy has seen success in many other schools that have implemented this system and has helped students achieve better outcomes in their GCSEs. A number of students find it difficult to complete homework or complete it on time. As a result, we are implementing a system if any Year 11 students misses a homework they will have a one hour catch up session the following night and complete that homework and other revision materials during that detention. If you wish to discuss any specific concerns that you have about this for your child then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, may I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2019. We look forward to seeing your children return to school on Tuesday 8th January 2019.

Ofsted conducted a two day review in September on the quality of provision for pupils who have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or disabilities, the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements and aspects of pupils' personal development, behaviour and welfare. Within the report it states

- The leadership of the provision for pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities is a strength of the school.
- Pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities made stronger progress from their starting points in 2018 than in previous years.
- Leaders ensure that pupils are safeguarded and their well-being is promoted through all aspects of school life.
- Staff are well trained and knowledgeable about safeguarding matters.
- Pupils know whom they can speak with when they have concerns. They feel safe. Pupils said that bullying does occasionally occur, but staff deal with any incidents quickly and effectively.
- Leaders have designed a curriculum that promotes pupils' safety and well-being. It is well thought out and reflects national issues, as well as the school's local context.
- Improving attendance and reducing the proportion of pupils who are persistently absent remain key priorities for improvement.

We are pleased with the outcomes of the report, which is available on our school website. As a school community, we will continue to work towards these targets, including working with parents to improve the attendance of students.

Science



As the centenary year of the Royal Air Force (RAF) comes to a close The Roundhill Academy made an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most gliders launched simultaneously.

We wanted to run the Balanced Flight: RAF glider activity. This activity explores how to keep an aircraft steady in flight.

The Roundhill Academy took it one-step further. "We realised we had enough students to try and break the Guinness World Record for the most gliders launched at once."

The day of the attempt was clear and sunny. There was 837 gliders correctly launched and await confirmation of the record by Guinness.

Humanities



Every student at The Roundhill Academy went the extra mile to show their respect to mark soldiers who have made sacrifices, focusing on the 'unknown' soldiers of World War I. Over a week long period, each student knitted their own poppy, overcoming the difficulties of this challenge on the way to show their respect. Each day the students heard a soldier's letter from the front to allow them to appreciate the experience and sacrifices that the soldiers faced. On Friday, students brought all of their offerings to the Hall and the scale and beauty of their work was breath taking. The two-minute silence observed has never been so powerful and meaningful for our students. All of the students work is going to make a permanent display in the Humanities area.



Bushcraft



Monday 24th September 2018 saw 91 intrepid Year 7 students head off into the woods for The Roundhill Academy's fourth Bushcraft Residential, with The Bushcraft Company. Students disconnected themselves from their social networks so that they could immerse themselves in the woodland experience and spent three days living in the woods at the Cornbury Park private estate in Oxfordshire.

Students took part in fire-lighting, shelter building; camouflage exercises, knife workshops and nature walks, all with the aim of giving them the skills to survive in the wilderness, whilst helping them build relationships with their new friends in the year group. Fire lighting became quite important as students had to cook their lunches on the fires they made so they had to work together to make sure they got it right!

The Bushcraft Company staff on hand were excellent. Taking care of all activities, catering needs and even sleeping out by the campfire so they could be on hand during the night. They were friendly and knowledgeable and all students benefitted from their enthusiasm.

This was a fantastic experience, one that students will not forget in a hurry – especially those few who indulged in a little bush-tucker trial involving a salmon's eye! Great times!

The final amount raised for the Roundhill Run was £1976.97



Christmas Hampers

Students created 32 hampers, all of which were crammed full of festive goodies and expertly designed by each Tutor Group. Students accompanied Mr Snowden and delivered each hamper to local needy residents from the Thurmaston and Syston area. Recipients were delighted that they had been nominated and students enjoyed chatting to these elderly people and endeavoured to spread a little Christmas cheer and let the recipients know that they were being thought of during this festive time.

“We always need nominations for hamper recipients and would love to hear about needy people who live locally who would appreciate receiving a hamper next year.”



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

We raised £593.05 for Save the Children

Macbeth





Beatrice Hill is a talented gymnast and has recently been selected onto the 2019 Women's Artistic Gymnastics Home Nations Development Squad.

Bea is currently training with her club, Notts Gymnastics Academy.

In addition to her regular club-based training, Bea will attend National training camps and competitions throughout the year.

Congratulations to Bea who has been shortlisted to the final 3 in the Leicester Mercury Junior Sports Person of the Year! This award is given to, "A simply outstanding individual, the award is a way to reward such inspirational success from a grassroots level."

Good luck in the finals Bea!

Reminders

CASHLESS CATERING CARDS

Please can you ensure that cards are always topped up and your child remembers to bring their card into school every day.

If the card is lost, a new one can be purchased for a £1 charge.

If your son/daughter is entitled to Free School Meals, the card still has to be produced at the till.

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.

