



Learning to Succeed

Guthlaxton College

December 2011 - Issue No. 4 - 2011/2012

Tiger News

Foreword from the Principal

Now, at the end of a very long term and the end of our most successful year ever; I thank all the parents, governors, students and most importantly the teaching and associate staff for their significant efforts in making everything possible.

Wishing everyone and their families a wonderful seasonal break and a Happy New Year.

Once again, thank you, all of you, for making a difference.

Guthlaxton is one of the top 10% of schools nationally!

We all know how brilliantly we did last Summer with our GCSE results. What we have only just found out is that when you compare our results to those of similar schools nationally, our students have performed as well as the top 10% in the country. This again reminds us of the excellent standards of achievement and progress that our students are making. Outstanding!

OfSTED Website for Parents

Ofsted has launched a new website enabling parents to give their views on individual schools; <http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Parent View is an online survey that invites parents to answer 12 questions anonymously:

1. My child is happy at this school.
2. My child feels safe at this school.
3. My child makes good progress at this school.
4. My child is well looked after at this school.
5. My child is taught well at this school.
6. My child receives appropriate homework for their age.
7. This school ensures the pupils are well behaved.
8. This school deals effectively with bullying.
9. This school is well led and managed.
10. This school responds well to any concern I raise.
11. I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress.
12. I would recommend this school to another parent.

Parents can answer the first 11 questions with responses ranging from "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" with the last question being a simple yes or no.

Responses from the questionnaire will be published on the OfSTED website on a rolling basis and anyone will be able to make annual comparisons between schools at the end of the school year.

Guthlaxton Consultation on Academy Status Conversion and becoming part of an Umbrella Trust

Guthlaxton has always valued the support that has been provided by the Local Authority (LA). Sadly, in future the Leicestershire LA is not able to guarantee the same level of support. This does mean that Guthlaxton has the opportunity to explore becoming an academy and different ways of working in partnership with our neighbouring schools.

What is an academy? What is an Umbrella Trust? The answers to these and many more questions are found inside this newsletter.

John Keller
Principal

Dear John

Silver Award for the Big Band

Please pass on my congratulations to Richard Dacey and the members of the Guthlaxton Big Band for achieving a Silver Award at the recent regional festival of NCBF. I realise that some participating school bands have been together much longer and have dedicated huge resources to wind and big bands for many years. Therefore, to come home with a Silver award must make the band members and the rest of the Performing Arts Faculty feel justifiably proud, as it does the governors. Well done to the Big Band!

Yours sincerely,

Peter Osgood
(Chair of Governors)

WIGSTON SCHOOL OF DANCE

EST. 1969

Tuesday 29th November 2011

Reference: Senior Dance Show: Do Your Thing

Dear Mr. Keller,

I am writing to thank both yourself & your superb team; Sally, Dawn, Carl, Darren, Gary, Ben and the bar staff at Guthlaxton College for your welcome, encouragement & support for our variety dance production - Do Your Thing (24- 26 November).

All the young people (aged mainly 11-25 years) & their families & friends have once again had the most wonderful show run at Guthlaxton. With work commencing last Easter it has been a long awaited & exciting time of choreography, rehearsals & costume preparations.

We understand that life at the college must be especially hectic with the foyer project in progress currently & therefore appreciate more than ever our opportunity to use the theatre space at a time when things are no doubt stressful.

Certainly the foyer development sounds absolutely fabulous & will make a wonderful statement entrance that the staff & students (current & future) deserve.

Our show has given so much pleasure and positive energy to our dancers & families at a time when life is economically so challenging - a time when such events are all the more cherished I believe. Thank-you for enabling us to make it all happen.

You may also be interested to hear that during the course of the show we held a collection raising £273.00 on behalf of "Children in Need".

Your continued support is truly appreciated.

On behalf of everyone at the Wigston School of Dance, our sincere and grateful thanks.

Kind Regards,



Vanessa Spencer (Principal)



Following a competition in the Autumn Term, the sixth form now has its own logo representing our own three key values; opportunity, challenge and success. Thanks to Jamie Pratt in Year 12 for the design shown on the left which follows a similar theme to that of the College.

Since the last newsletter, the sixth form have had another charity fundraising event for Children in Need, in conjunction with the college. They were successful in raising £345 with the usual cake sales, which went like hot cakes, so thanks to Dane Pemberton and Jade Lyons for their efforts in Food Technology. At lunch time, following its success last year, there was 'I'm a sixth former get me out of

here' with students volunteering to complete a bush tucker trial with combinations such as marmite and rice pudding; flour and ground ginger, tuna and jam, mustard and marmite, whole garlic. Callum Payne was the overall winner, eating everything put in front of him.

As of 29th November the totals for applications to university are as follows:

HOUSE	Number of applications 2009 entry	Number of applications 2010 entry	Number of applications 2011 entry	Number of applications 2012 entry
De Montfort		35	26	17
Glenne		37	34	28
Herrick		31	28	30
Wistan		23	25	21
Guthlaxton total	129	126	113	96
Percentage of Year 13 students	68%	71%	82%	67%
Ex-students	3	9	17	
Overall totals	132	135	130	

We have met our target of processing applications by Christmas; most applications were processed within 3 weeks of handing in to the Post 16 Office by the 12th October deadline date. There are a handful of other applications to be sent over the next week or so, but all applications are well in advance of the UCAS deadline of 14th January 2012.

YEAR 11 STUDENTS should be in the process of completing their Sixth Form application form and the Lecap form online to apply for Post 16 courses in September 2012. Students have been attending A level taster lessons over the last few weeks to help them in making an informed decision about their choices. Once students begin on courses, it is increasingly difficult to change subjects due to the extent of work covered at A level in a short space of time. Students must ensure that they are making the right decision and should seek advice from subject teachers, mentors and parents/carers.

Deadline Wednesday 7th December 2011 for Sixth Form Applications

On 12th December, we look forward to the arrival of our new Post 16 Student Manager, Mrs Rebecca Rose, a former Connexions Manager. She replaces Mrs Jan Voss who we will say farewell to in sixth form assembly on 16th December and at the formal Christmas dinner on 19th. Rebecca will shadow Jan for the remaining 2 weeks of term as well as students in Year 12 and 13 to gather a real flavour for what the sixth form is about. We wish Jan Voss all the best for her future.

Deb Wilson
Assistant Principal



Guthlaxton Consultation on Academy Status Conversion and becoming part of an Umbrella Trust

Under The Academies Act 2010, schools can apply to the Secretary of State for Academy status.

We are now looking very closely at this opportunity and exploring the possibilities being created through becoming an academy and also working with our partners in the Wigston area as part of an Umbrella trust.

After an extensive period of consultation we will again bring the matter to a meeting of the Governing Body in March 2012. At the meeting in March we will discuss the outcomes of this consultation and decide whether we wish to make a formal application to the Department for Education (DfE) to find out whether they would support a conversion or not.

The Governing Body is committed to making a full and detailed analysis of the potential benefits and risks of becoming an Academy and being part of a trust. We are also keen to ensure that you are given the opportunity to find out as much about the matter as you can and to make appropriate comment. Only after we believe we have all the information necessary and this consultation has taken place will we make a final decision.

What won't change

Guthlaxton will not change. Whether Guthlaxton becomes an academy or not there will still be the same governing body, the same leadership, the same school name, the same uniform and the same high quality and improving service that is delivering the best results ever.

What is an Academy?

Academies are publicly funded, independent schools which have freedom from the Local Authority (LA) control. They receive their funding directly from the Young People's Learning Agency, have greater control of their budget and have access to the money otherwise top-sliced by the Leicestershire LA for 'central services'.

They are still subject to Ofsted inspections and must comply with the same admissions, exclusions and Special Educational Needs (SEN) laws and codes of practice as before. Detailed information can be found at the DfE website: www.education.gov.uk/academies.

Why should we consider becoming an Academy?

Academies receive the funding which previously would have been retained by the LA for central services. For a large College like Guthlaxton this is a significant sum. This additional funding would help to mitigate the significant reductions in funding that we face both nationally and from the LA allowing us to secure future provision and staffing, further improve on what we can offer your sons and daughters and allow us to seek the best value for money services. We firmly believe that the cost of services required if Guthlaxton becomes an academy would be considerably less than the funding that is retained by the LA.

Why are we also considering being part of an Umbrella Trust?

We recently wrote to all of our colleagues who are members of the Wigston family of Schools. These are all of the Primary schools, High schools and the local Further Education College. We wrote to them all to propose a way forward to protect the education provision for all our students in the Wigston area.

In the past, the Leicestershire Local Authority (LA) has been very supportive of education provision for many years. Guthlaxton has always enjoyed an excellent relationship with both the LA and the Oadby and Wigston borough councils. Over the years they have provided invaluable support. Our county authority is widely praised

nationally for the achievements of the schools at all levels for producing enviable performances with their students.

However, the scale and role of the Leicestershire LA is diminishing, as is its ability to provide the breadth of services we and other schools need. Therefore, our proposal is that by possibly becoming an Academy whilst also working with our partners under the Umbrella trust independent of Local Authority control would free us up to choose quality support which provides best value for money for our school and maximise the opportunities for all of the students in the Wigston area by working together would bring.

At Guthlaxton College, because it is a large school, we currently operate fairly autonomously and already manage most services 'in-house' e.g. premises, ICT, HR, Finance, catering and cleaning. This means we have plenty of experience in running our own operations and plenty of evidence to show that, where we do, it is successful and cost effective. The opportunity to operate totally autonomously would present exciting new challenges and the potential for increased benefit to the College and its students whilst we would also be able to share some of our expertise with our Umbrella Trust partners.

We already work closely with our colleagues in the Wigston Family of Schools. We are proud of the excellent partnerships we have forged through the Arts, Community Sports and Extended Services at the High schools and with all the Primary schools. We are all committed to making the most of the opportunities presented by working together, in partnership, for the greater good of our staff and students.

What are the disadvantages we need to consider?

For Guthlaxton College, and our partners, the main difference would be the loss of the Local Authority 'safety net'. We would be entirely responsible for procuring our own services and would have to ensure that all aspects of liability and insurance were covered. Instead of accepting the menu of services and associated rates of the Local Authority, we would have to arrange our own.

On a wider scale, becoming an Academy would potentially undermine local accountability over schooling. Since the 1870 Education Act, the Local Authority has provided a vision for county education, as well as monitoring performance and responding to concerns.

There is also a genuine concern amongst all the teaching unions that the Government drive for establishing independent Academies will undermine collective bargaining and the pay & conditions of teaching staff which may make any individual academy less attractive to employees.

Your chance to have your say

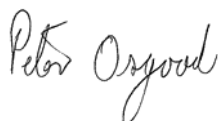
The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that, whatever decision is reached, it is in the interests of the school and its present and future students. It is totally committed to the comprehensive ethos and has no intention to change admissions arrangements, including those on the SEN register.

Thank you for taking the time to read this part of the newsletter and we would welcome your views on our proposal.

Yours sincerely



John Keller
Principal



Peter Osgood
Chair of Governors

Christmas Recycling

In anticipation of the post-Christmas rush to dispose of unwanted and used Christmas cards could I please ask you to send these into College for the annual Christmas card recycling.

Once again we are working in collaboration with Leicestershire County Council to recycle all Christmas cards on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

All donations warmly received in our efforts to secure a sustainable environment for future generations of young people.

2011- 12 Parent Evenings

A reminder of the programme of Parent Consultation Evenings for 2011 – 2012 which are in the College calendar. Please make a note of the following dates in your diaries to ensure that you support your son/daughter in striving to achieve their potential.

Year	Date	Time
Year 11	Monday 16 th January 2012	4.00 – 6.30pm
	Wednesday 25 th January 2012	6.00 – 8.30pm
Year 10	Monday 12 th March 2012	4.00 – 6.30pm
	Thursday 22 nd March 2012	6.00 – 8.30pm

Year 11 parents/carers please note the paperwork for the parent evenings will be distributed on Monday 9th January 2012.

If you have any concerns before or after these dates please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's subject teachers or Head of House. At Guthlaxton College we have an "open door" approach and we will address issues as and when they arise.

Global Partnerships

We are delighted to announce our global partnership with schools and colleges in Zambia. It is a link we have forged through Leicestershire County Council offering us a wonderful opportunity to work with students and teachers in a country less developed than the UK. We hope this will offer us an insight into education systems elsewhere in the world.

We are underway with our Global Partnership programme and our focus will be Global Citizenship. We hope through this valuable link that we can encourage our young people to work together in harmony towards a peaceful tomorrow, a world which is free from conflicts and an environment which is cared for and sustainable. Watch this space for news of the work with our partner school in Zambia.

Enhanced Resource Base for Children with Autism

The consultation process is underway to establish an Enhanced Resource Base for Children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder as part of the development of education in the Wigston area. We are pleased to be working with the Governors of Abington High School to develop this new educational facility. I have received a number of queries regarding this resource.

The following explains this resource which will give access to young people with autism.

What is an Enhanced Resource Base for Pupils with Autism?

The Enhanced Resource Base provides an education for pupils with significant and complex

Autism, but of mainstream ability who require highly specialised and individual arrangements which cannot be practically or reasonably put in place by a mainstream school.

The Enhanced Resource Base will provide specialist support to those pupils with most complex needs, but will also provide a significant benefit to other students with Autism attending Abington High School, Guthlaxton College and other schools in the area.

News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

Developing an Enhanced Resource Base will mean that more children with Autism can be educated within Leicestershire and will be supported in their current mainstream placements.

Where will the Enhanced Resource Base be located?

The Enhanced Resource Base will be located within Abington High School. The Enhanced Resource Base will comprise of specialist teaching areas forming part of the planned development.

How will it work?

Pupils attending the Enhanced Resource Bases will need to have a Statement of Special Educational Needs that specifies a place at the Enhanced Resource Base before they can attend.

The Enhanced Resource Base will focus on the needs of the individual child and have the ability to adapt and adjust to their individual needs as they follow standard programmes of study and courses, leading to qualifications. Children will spend most of their time supported in mainstream classes but with access to specialist teachers and support staff for specific individual or small group work. Staff within the base will work collaboratively with subject teachers offering them support, advice and expertise in working with children with Autism.

How will education for pupils improve?

Pupils with Autism in schools in the area will benefit from the expertise at the Enhanced Resource Base.

The pupils attending the Enhanced Resource base will benefit from greater inclusion opportunities within mainstream classes, expertise from specialist staff and the sharing of their learning experiences with a range of pupils.

The accommodation will provide space for other professionals, so that children's needs are met comprehensively in one place.

Road Awareness

Once again may I remind you of the need to reinforce to your son/daughter safety on the roads. There have been a number of issues regarding road awareness involving a small minority of students who have been playing chicken running across the road in front of moving vehicles, throwing acorns at cars, lorries and buses and failing to use the pedestrian crossing to cross Station Road, which is extremely busy at all times, especially at the start and end of the College day.

Please support the College in reinforcing safe use of pavements and roads as our young people arrive and leave the College. There are pedestrian lights outside the College which should be used when crossing the road, and the pavements are for the use of pedestrians not the roads.

Many thanks for your anticipated support.

Music, Film, TV & the Internet

A guide for parents and teachers

It is important that with Christmas just around the corner there is a raised awareness regarding the use of media in the home. There is a guide which has been written by children's charity "Childnet International." It is a useful guide which offers help to parents and teachers in supporting young people accessing music enabling them to stay safe and legal when enjoying entertainment on the internet or via a mobile device. There is a section of FAQ, a jargon buster and tips.

Here are some tips from the guide:

Talk with children about computer use

Are you aware of how your children are using the computer to access music, film and TV content? Talk to them so that they understand why it's important to use legal sites online.

Using legal sites helps to ensure that everyone who works to make a song, film or TV programme is paid fairly for their work. It's also worth discussing with them what the consequences would be for the whole family if they were caught breaking the law.

Explore the web's legal music, film and TV services

There are more than 13 million tracks licensed to legal music services. A full list of services worldwide is available at www.pro-music.org and www.whymusicmatters.org lists the services available in the UK. You may want to use a service such as iTunes or Amazon MP3, or one like Spotify which can supply music to the whole household.



For film and TV, there are many services now available to stream or download films or TV programmes online. These provide access to thousands of titles, and the amount of programming available is growing all the time. To search for specific film titles online visit www.findanyfilm.com. You can also find a list of links to all legal film and TV sites at www.industrytrust.co.uk.

Check your computer and wireless connection

Are you aware of what is on the family computer? Make sure it is protected against viruses and spyware. Ensure your wireless connection is secure with a password and encryption (such as WPA). Talk to your family about what they do online, and decide what protections are best placed to meet the needs of the users in your house.

The guide can be downloaded at:

http://www.childnet-int.org/downloading/assets/docs/downloads_uk_edition.pdf.



E-Safety Some Facts For You As Parents

Know what your children are doing online and who they are talking to. Ask them to teach you to use any applications you have never used. Keeping the computer in a family room means that you can share your child's online experience - and that they are less likely to act inappropriately (i.e. via webcam).

Help your children to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends - personal information includes their messenger ID, email address, mobile number and any pictures of themselves, their family or friends. If your child publishes a picture or video online, anyone can change it or share it. Remind them that anyone may be looking at their images and one day a future employer could!

If your child receives spam/junk email and texts, remind them never to believe them, reply to them or use them. It's not a good idea for your child to open files that are from people they don't know. They won't know what they contain - it could be a virus, or worse - an inappropriate image or film. Help your child to understand that some people lie online and therefore it's better to keep online mates online. They should never meet up with any strangers without an adult they trust.

Always keep communication open for a child to know that it's never too late to tell someone if something makes them feel uncomfortable.

Teach young people how to block someone online and how to report them if they feel uncomfortable.

Websites:

www.ceop.gov.uk

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

www.getnetwise.org

Christmas Carol Service

We are delighted that the College in partnership with All Saints Church will be holding a service of Christmas readings and carols. This follows the success of last year's service and it will be held at 2.00pm on Friday 16th December.

All parents and friends of the College and All Saints Church are welcome to join in what promises to be a poignant celebration of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you on this occasion.



The Wigston Arts Federation Festival

As a group of Performing Arts Specialist schools we have developed a programme of phenomenal work across the Wigston Family of Schools.



Last year, for the second time, we were able to enjoy the Arts Festival and as a result of its success we are planning a third festival to run from 18th June 2012 – 13th July 2012.

It promises to be an excellent month of activities across the schools in the borough with the traditional Art and Photography Exhibition, Bye Bye Blues concerts, Speech and Literacy Festival and much, much more taking place.

Please inform Sally Cox or Lisa Robinson if you have any activities you wish to publicise during this period.

Arts Partnerships

Guthlaxton College continues to host a wealth of Arts based activities in spite of the Guthlaxton College Gateway renovation. This is through strong partnerships at both a local, regional and national level. We are proud to be strongly associated with Leicester Philharmonic Choir who are resident in the College every Monday, membership of which is going from strength to strength; Leicestershire Arts who continue to use us as a centre on Saturdays and have developed the Wigston School of Music on Mondays; Stage Coach; the Phoenix Choir; SWM Theatre Company; Wigston School of Dance; Wigston Male Voice Choir; Pauline Quirk Dance and The Salvation Army to name a few. Our richness in the Arts is also reflected in links with Opera North, Arts Council England, Curve Theatre and EMI/Music Sound Foundation. We are delighted to work with EMI/Music Sound Foundation to continue to develop music at Key Stage 1 and we look forward to the outcomes of this project.

We are pleased that the changes outlined by the government last year have had little impact upon these partnerships. Our tradition in the Arts is embedded across our work within and beyond the College and we acknowledge our reputation in the Arts and those of our partners.

Year 11/13 Annual Reviews

Thank you to all parents who attended the annual review meetings on Thursday 10th November. The feedback from outside agencies and teachers was really positive and demonstrates the huge progress made by students. Our thanks to everyone involved in securing the excellent outcomes and to the students for their hard work and determination. The date for the Year 10/12 Reviews has been confirmed for Thursday 8th March 2012.

Wigston Family of Schools Extended Services Pupil Conference

The Wigston Family of Schools Extended Services are hosting a Pupil Council Conference for the third year in succession at Parklands Leisure Centre on Thursday 8th December. The aim of the conference is "being brilliant." It will be an action packed day starring individual schools super heroes including "Guthy the LRC Tiger." It will be led by the Guthlaxton College Art of Brilliance Consultants, co-ordinated by Lisa Robinson (Wigston Family of Schools Extended Services Co-ordinator) and attended by almost 200 pupils from the schools in the borough.

Looking Ahead

Please note below the term dates from Leicestershire County Council for the remainder of the academic year 2011-12 and for 2012-13. The summer mid-term break has changed dates in acknowledgement of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations in June.

Term Dates for the Academic Year 2011 - 12

22 December	End of Term
9 January 2012	Start of Spring Term
13 - 17 February	Half Term Break
30 March	End of Term
16 April	Start of Summer Term
7 May	May Day Bank Holiday
1 - 8 June	Half Term Break
13 July	End of Term

Term Dates for the Academic Year 2012 - 13

30 August	Start of Term
22 - 26 October	Half Term Break
21 December	End of Term
8 January 2013	Start of Spring Term
11 - 15 February	Half Term Break
22 March	End of Term
8 April	Start of Summer Term
6 May	May Day Bank Holiday
27- 31 May	Half Term Break
12 July	End of Term

Uniform

Once again I am taking this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting the College in our efforts to improve standards of dress. As the term proceeds and the temperatures fall and weather becomes inclement there is a trend for standards of dress to slip.

Could I remind all parents and students of our uniform requirements, which are outlined below:

Guthlaxton College Sixth Form Dress Code	Guthlaxton College KS4 Uniform
<p>The emphasis of the Sixth Form Dress Code is smart, not casual clothing: smart trousers or skirts and dresses, shirts with ties or blouses, clean smart shoes. All outdoor clothing, hats, scarves etc should be removed when entering the classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trousers should be full length; leggings, combat style trousers, jeans or shorts are not acceptable. • Shirts should be largely plain; lumberjack designs are not acceptable. • Girls should be wearing tops with shoulders covered; vest tops are not acceptable. • All boys should be wearing a tie. • Sensible shoes should be worn (no trainers). • Jewellery should be discreet. • Jumpers, cardigans and sweaters should not contain huge logos. • Hoodies are not considered to be smart and if worn as outer clothing should be removed in college. • All students should wear the Sixth Form lanyard and ID. 	<p>The KS4 Guthlaxton College uniform consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan with the College logo. • Plain black full-length trousers or skirts. It should be noted that leggings, combat style trousers, jeans or shorts are not acceptable. • Plain white shirt/blouse with a collar attached and a Guthlaxton College tie for the boys. Girls may wear open neck blouses without a tie. • Sensible black footwear. Boots, trainers and high heeled shoes are not part of the College uniform and should not be worn. • Outdoor coats should be plain and removed prior to entry to the classroom. This removal includes hats, scarves and gloves. • All students should wear the House lanyard and ID.

We are pleased to announce that we are working in partnership with John Cheatles and Schoolwear Solutions who are the outlets for the Guthlaxton College uniform and they are retailing at highly competitive prices in their shop in Oadby.

Every Child Matters

At Guthlaxton College we value the Every Child Matters agenda which offers 5 outcomes for our young people

- Be Healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and Achieve
- Make a Positive Contribution
- Achieve Economic Wellbeing.

We are proud that we strive to secure this agenda and that we offer all young people in our care a range of opportunities to meet their individual needs.

Be Healthy and Stay Safe: We continue to develop strong links with external agencies who offer support to both the young people and yourselves as parents and carers.

We work with a variety of health professionals including Kathy Elliott, the College Counsellor, Alex Yeomanson, the School Nurse, Jayne Bond, the Attendance Improvement Officer, Phil Harbour, the

News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

Educational Psychologist, the LRI Hospital School, local GP and Health Clinics, the Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust and Social Service Departments. These partnerships are developing and increasing and we are delighted that Kathryn Heathcote, Oadby & Wigston Substance Use Prevention Officer, is working with the College to offer a programme of one to one and small group workshops related to drug and alcohol education. Katherine is available to work with young people on a needs basis. As parents/carers if you wish to make contact with any of our external agency partners please contact your son/daughter's Head/Assistant Head of House, identified below:

	Head of House	Assistant Head of House
De Montfort	Phill Ashton	Laura Wood
Glenne	Maggie Hadkiss	Shelley Marvin
Herrick	Iain Tidmarsh	Rachael Hayes
Wistan	Ailie Pollon	Rebecca Chapman

In addition we have developed working practices with Women's Aid Leicester following an increasing trend in domestic violence incidents.

These partnerships are valuable in meeting the needs of our young people and ensuring that they remain healthy and safe. One of the key aspects of the new OfSTED inspection is 'safety' and the safety of our young people is a major concern for the College, and one which is constantly monitored.

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Education

The success of working with our feeder Primary and High Schools in developing a co-ordinated approach for Sex & Relationships Education (SRE) Key Stage 1 – 5 has led to further partnership working. The focus is towards developing a common approach to Drug & Alcohol Abuse Education.

This programme is essential if we are to work together to protect our young people and ensure that they "be healthy and stay safe." Working together enables our students to make appropriate decisions and increase their life chances.

Enjoy and Achieve: Student Review Day offered time for reflection upon the enjoyment and achievement of our young people. Many of you reported positively about the excellent work of the College. The on-going attendance and behaviour lottery draws and the e-rewards demonstrates the positive outcomes of enjoy and achieve. It is reflected in the updated 2011-12 House Championships which stands at:

De Montfort	Glenne	Herrick	Wistan
575	475	630	420

These scores reflect the outcomes from the House quizzes, sports events, PD challenges and lots more.

Please encourage your son daughter to participate and support their House. Participation gives points ...points mean the House championship prize.

Equally enjoy and achieve is indicated by the Care & Guidance Matters Agenda which has provided a weekly focus upon attainment, attendance, attitude to learning, behaviour, preparedness (including kit and uniform), progress and punctuality.

The outcomes of this are reflected in,...

Preparedness Matters:

We ask that they are dressed in the College uniform and have the correct kit as appropriate for the lessons of that day. In addition they are wearing their lanyard and they have a copy of their timetable and planner. It is important that our students arrive at College prepared for their role as independent learners.



**GUTHLAXTON
COLLEGE**

Learning to Succeed

News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

Attendance Matters Update:

The Autumn term has offered a great challenge. Attendance is scrutinised by ourselves and the LA and in our efforts to meet the attendance target of 95%. The following table compares attendance for this term in 2010 with 2011.

Date Wk End	03/09/10	06/09/10	17/09/10	24/09/10	01/10/10	08/10/10	15/10/10	29/10/10	05/11/10	12/11/10	19/11/10
	02/09/11	09/09/11	16/09/11	23/09/11	30/09/11	07/10/11	14/10/11	28/10/11	04/11/11	11/11/11	18/11/10
Yr 10	95.2	94.8	93.7	93.9	94.2	94.3	93.9	93.9	93.8	93.8	93.6
	97.4	96.3	95.1	94.5	93.9	93.7	93.2	93.2	93.0	92.7	93.1
Yr 11	95	93.4	92.1	92	91.6	92.1	91.8	91.8	92	91.9	91.9
	92.6	93.4	94.2	92.5	91.8	91.8	91.7	91.8	91.7	91.4	91.7
Overall KS4	95.1	94.1	92.9	92.9	92.8	93.1	92.7	92.7	92.8	92.8	92.7
	95.1	94.9	94.1	93.5	92.9	92.8	92.5	92.5	92.4	92.1	92.4
Yr 12	99.5	96.4	95.8	94.8	95.2	95.2	94.5	94.5	94.6	94.5	94.1
	100	98.1	96.4	95.7	94.4	94	93.6	93.7	93	92.9	93.5
Yr 13	78.8	83.2	88	79	88.8	89.6	89.8	89.8	90.2	90.7	90.8
	91	91.2	90.7	92.2	92	91.9	91	92.8	92.5	92.6	93.4
Overall KS5	90.1	90.7	92.5	88.1	92.7	93	92.7	92.7	92.9	92.3	92.8
	96.3	95.3	94.1	94.3	93.4	93.1	92.6	93.3	92.7	92.8	93.5
College	93.7	93.1	92.8	91.5	92.8	93.1	92.7	92.7	92.9	92.9	92.7
Overall	95.4	95	94.2	93.7	93	92.9	92.5	92.7	92.5	92.3	92.7

It demonstrates the pattern of attendance is similar to last year's. "Lost Learning" through non-attendance continues to be a major cause for concern for the College both in the impact it has upon the performance of our young people as reflected in recent government figures the poor habits learnt by our students and the impact this may have upon their ability to gain employment; FE and HE places. FE colleges are looking for future students who have attendance rates of over 90%.

The following government figures have been shared with our students and they show the effect of absence on GCSE results:

Your % Attendance	% Students Achieving 5+ GCSE A* - C
93.5% and above	77.1%
92.5 - 93.4%	60.4%
91.5 – 92.4%	54.5%
90.0 – 91.4%	45.4%
88.0 - 89.9%	35.3%
Less than 88%	26%

It is "everyone's responsibility" to secure high attendance.

Teaching and associate staff at the College and the Local Authority are working together to improve this and it is important that we establish good habits now as they pave the way to a lifetime of success.

It was reported earlier this month in the Leicester Mercury that over 600 parents/carers had been fined since September for their child's truancy. Please endeavour not to let this happen to you... reinforce the message to your son/daughter "miss college... you miss out". A student with 90% attendance is a student who has half a day off every week – this is totally unacceptable.

Persistent Absence:

We monitor very closely all students with less than 96% attendance. There are almost 50% of all students with attendance less than 96% across both Key Stages 4 and 5.

Punctuality Matters:

This continues to improve with a greater number of students being on time. The message being given by tutors and teachers is shown in the table and may be summarised as "be late ... miss out ... don't let this be you."

News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

The message we shared with students recently was:

Minutes late per day during the school year	Equals days worth of teaching lost in a year
5 minutes	3.4 days
10 minutes	6.9 days
15 minutes	10.3 days
20 minutes	13.8 days
30 minutes	20.7 days

There appears to have been positive response by the majority of young people at the College to this agenda. It is important that Care & Guidance matters are a shared responsibility and as parents/carers and teachers we establish the highest expectations in attainment, attendance, attitude to learning, behaviour, preparedness, progress and punctuality so we can ensure that all students enjoy and achieve their full potential and have a happy and successful future.

Behaviour Matters Update:

The term continues to demonstrate positive behaviour outcomes. This is reflected in the table:

Week Ending	Half term 1	28/10/11	04/11/11	11/11/11	18/11/11	Total
Guidance In- tervention	26	0	0	2	3	31
Serious Inci- dent Re-	67	12	8	17	18	122
Informal Gov- ernors' Hear-	7	0	0	0	0	7
Exclusion Fixed term	12	4	3	3	5	27
Permanent	0	0	0	0	0	0

These outcomes show the contribution made by the young people, teaching and associate staff and you as parents/carers as we work to achieve the five values of:



Your support as parents/carers is vital in ensuring that your son/daughter takes responsibility for their own behaviour and our thanks for your support in these matters. We look forward to maintaining a close working partnership and a mutual understanding as we strive to achieve the highest expectations for all students on preparing them for their role in 21st century society.

News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal



Young Americans

The 2012 Young Americans European Tour will return to Leicester from Friday 16th – Sunday 18th March 2012.

We are working jointly with Sir Jonathan North Community College to offer a weekend package of fun, excitement and performance. It will be hosted at Sir Jonathan North Community College due to the refurbishments of the College Foyer.. We look forward to our students participating in this phenomenal event and we hope to be able to offer host family opportunities for our Young American visitors; any offers please contact Lisa Robinson (ESCo) or myself. Letters for students wishing to participate and host families are available from the College. The cost for the weekend from Friday through to Sunday is £50.00.

Make a Positive Contribution

Christmas Hampers

The BTec students launched the annual Christmas Hamper appeal in style through a series of excellent House Assemblies during the week commencing 21st November. Their portrayal of Scrooge was brilliant.

Once again we are hoping that you will support your son/daughter in contributing to the tutor group hampers by encouraging them to bring suitable food items (canned or packet produce, seasonal treats and so on) to College. The hamper judging is on Wednesday 14th December 9.00 – 11.00am.

This appeal has become a longstanding tradition in our calendar and offers the elderly citizens of our borough some Christmas cheer and happiness.

Please watch this space for the hamper results in the New Year.

Non Uniform Days

On Friday 18th November 2011 we enjoyed the first of our three non-uniform days which was in aid of Children in Need. A grand total of £1238.79 was raised with £341.69 from the Sixth Form who held their Children in Need 'I'm a Sixth Former Get Me Out of Here' and £148 was raised single handedly by Callum Fothergill who bravely wore a Pudsey Bear outfit for the full day. The other two non-uniform days are;

- Friday 23rd March 2012: Sport Relief, and Sophie and Mia Vilcins' Inca Trail trek in aid of British Red Cross
- Friday 6th July 2012: House Charities.

We hope you will support our son/daughter in giving to these worthwhile local and national causes.



Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Awards 2012

Once again this year we are hoping to put forward nominations for the Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire Awards.

The award categories are based on a double celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. The nominations are for:

- Young Community Citizen of the Year: Someone whose actions have helped to generate great pride in their community.
- Young Innovator of the Year: A young person who has inspired others with their creativity and innovation in engineering, technology, music or the arts.
- Young Volunteer in Sport Award: Someone who has given their time and energy to volunteer in local sport.
- Young Sports Personality of the Year: A young person who has exceeded expectations in their individual achievement or team work.
- Young Disabled Sports Personality of the Year with learning and/or physical disability who has exceeded expectations in their individual achievement or team work.

If you have any nominations for these categories please contact the College.

Sally Cox
Deputy Principal

Author Alex Wheatle MBE visits Guthlaxton

There was a real coup for Guthlaxton when acclaimed author Alex Wheatle MBE dropped into the College for the day to give interested students an inspirational creative writing experience. Alex spent the day with students across all years working in the college Learning Resource Centre in a series of engaging creative writing workshops.

Alex first treated the students to his inspiring life story from his early life growing up in a children's home, through his experiences of living in Brixton during the 80s riot. Alex also spoke of his journey into writing poetry and novels, performing his famous lyrics as the "Brixton Bard" to the group.

The workshops, delivered over the course of the day, encouraged the students to explore their creativity with writing and drama activities and resulted in the students producing outstanding pieces of work. The students gained a valuable insight into the creative techniques used to develop characters and explore their writing and storytelling ideas.

Alex's uplifting and positive message of everyone finding their talent in life left the students and staff with an inspiring experience and a thought-provoking day.

James Campbell



RISC - Real Information, Safe Choices



Over the next week or so information will be shared with all young people on how to use 'Real Information' to make 'Safe Choices'. This is important throughout the year, but especially important over the festive period when there are likely to be more gatherings and parties.

Young people can access health services, including sexual health advice and guidance, from the Guthlaxton Clinic, Connexions and the Youth Service (based in the Bobbin factory located next to South Leicestershire College). There is also a 24 hour text service where young people can text to get advice and guidance on health related issues. This service is available throughout the Christmas period and the number to text is 07814 877859.

As parents and carers you can support your sons and daughters by discussing the issues with them, knowing where they are and who they are with and giving them guidance on how to 'stay safe'. There will be a Facebook page to support this campaign, further information will be distributed to students.

Natasha Davies
Assistant Principal

UK Senior Mathematics Team Challenge

Maths Success in Regional Finals

The regional finals of the UK Senior Mathematics Team Challenge, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust, took place at Loughborough University on Wednesday 9th November. This National competition promotes mathematical communication and teamwork skills and offers Year 12 and 13 students the opportunity to develop their enjoyment of mathematics in a competitive environment. Fifteen teams were competing from Leicestershire schools (including 5 teams from the independent sector) and, at the end of 3 hours of tough competition, the Guthlaxton team came in a fantastic 3rd place.

The team consisted of Joel Ferguson – Year 13 (former Leysland High School student), Jamie Mullineaux – Year 13 (former South Wigston High School student), James Owers – Year 12 (former Abington High School student) and Tayla Poole Year 12 (former Bushloe High School student). Our team worked exceptionally well together and, despite the challenging nature of the rounds, their determination and commitment led to great success.

They were a credit to our College and our congratulations go to them all.



UKMT Senior Mathematical Challenge 2011

With the results of the prestigious Year 12 and Year 13 UK Mathematical Challenge just received, the Mathematics Department at Guthlaxton College have much to celebrate. From an entry of 97,530 from across the country our students have excelled themselves with 3 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze certificates awarded.

As well as the overall success of our students we have also achieved some exceptional individual performances. Our highest scorer Joel Fergusson has been invited to compete in the Olympiad paper. This is open to the top students in the country. In addition to this Jamie Mullineaux has been invited into the European Kangaroo competition, which is open to the next highest scorers in the country. The Olympiad and European Kangaroo competition takes place on Friday 2nd December.

Gold awards went to Joel Fergusson, Jamie Mullineaux and James Owers.

Silver awards went to James Parrott, Thomas Carlin, George Landers, Evan Smith and Tayla Poole.

Bronze awards went to Matthew Degnan, Joseph Hay, David Rupp, Matthew Willemsen, Paul Pollard, Alex O'Connell, Scott Grocock, Joshua Bee, Samuel Dunkley and Chris Thornhill.

Well done to all those who took part.

Ian Robinson



GUTHLAXTON COLLEGE

Dates – At a Glance 2011 – 2012

16th December 2011 Friday	Carols at All Saints Church	College Choir
20th & 21st December 2011 Tuesday & Wednesday	Christmas Concert, Main College Hall 7.30pm & Matinee to Primary Schools at 10am – 11am Tuesday & Wednesday	Music, Dance & Drama Students
31st January 2012 Tuesday	Richard Attenborough Centre, Soundbites 12.45 – 1.45 free entry	College Chamber Orchestra.
4th February 2012 Saturday	St Thomas' Church, South Wigston Joint Concert.	College Choir & Orchestra
7th -10th March 2012 Wednesday- Saturday	College musical 'Crazy for You' 7.30pm Main College Hall and Matinee to High School Wednesday at 1.30pm	Drama, Dance & Music Students
16th – 18th March 2012 Friday – Sunday	Young Americans	College Students
21st March 2012 Wednesday	Wigston Family of Schools Instrumental Day, Main Hall.	High Schools & College Ensembles
23rd March 2012 Friday	Acoustic night, Main Hall 7.30pm	College Music Students
29th March 2012 Thursday	Bagworth village hall 8.30pm – 9.30pm tickets available on the door.	College Big Band
27th March 2012 Tuesday	Richard Attenborough Centre, Soundbites 12.45-1.45 fee entry.	College Big Band
29th March 2012 – 2nd April 2012 (exact dates tbc)	Drama Tour to USA.	Drama Students
25th May 2012 Friday	Rock School Concert Main Hall	College Students' Event
21st June 2012 Thursday	Wigston Family of Schools Instrumental Day and Concert 4pm	High Schools & College Ensembles
28th & 29th June 2012 Thursday & Friday	Bye Bye Blues Concert, Main College Hall	College Music, Dance & Drama students.
9th – 13th July 2012 Monday – Friday	Music tour to Belgium	Music students all years 10-13

National Concert Band Festival

The College Big Band returned to the NCBF regional rounds on Sunday 20th November to participate in the school Big Band class held at Northampton School for Boys.

The band opened their class with Manteca, Lullaby of Birdland, Blue Bossa and Straight No Chaser. The adjudicators praised the students' tone quality and phrasing and made special mention of the excellent improvisation skills shown by soloists James Sarson, Adam Langeveld, Alex Bentley, Michael Parker, Jack Kenney and Alex Fergusson. It was very much a team effort so congratulations are due to all of the band who contributed to such a successful outcome: Joel Fergusson (drums) Freya White (baritone), Rebecca Oughton and Jamie Adams (tenor sax), Stephanie Dobrijevic, Lewis Marriott and Ella Lee (alto sax), Peter De Carle (trombone), Chris Thornhill, Tom Phillips and Emily Barnes (trumpets).

The band hope to return to the Festival next year; meanwhile preparations for the Christmas Concerts on 20th and 21st December continue. Tickets are available now from College reception.

Richard Dacey
Head of Faculty

Guthlaxton College Presents

GERSHWIN'S HIT MUSICAL

**CRAZY
FOR
YOU**

**B
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7TH-10TH MARCH 2012

Tickets Available from College Reception
0116 288 1611



GUTHLAXTON
COLLEGE

Christmas Concert

Tickets:

£6 Tiered Seating

£5 Balcony Seating

Featuring:

**Big Band, Concert Band,
Orchestra, College Choir, Gospel Choir,
Sax Quartet, Islanders, Close Harmony,
The Pupils & The Musical Trailer**

**Tuesday 20th & Wednesday 21st December 2011
7.30pm in the Main College Hall**

Tickets available from:

Student Cashier in

PE 8:30-1:15pm

Public from

Main Reception

1:30-3:30pm

Telephone:

0116 2881611



Proceeds to the Rotary Club of Oadby (Registered Number 1081136)

Please can all Year 10 ex-Abington pupils collect their FCSE Certificates from Abington High School anytime after 3.15pm.

*Carolyn Frost
Abington High School*

Governor Vacancy

Guthlaxton College is fortunate to have a vibrant and active set of Governors who care for the College, students and staff.

There is currently an opportunity for a parent to become a governor. It is a superb opportunity for you to have a window upon the work of the College and to support the College in its progress.

If there are any parents who are interested in becoming a governor, could they please contact John Keller either by telephone on 0116 2881611, email guth@guth.org.uk, or in writing.



Information in case of bad weather

Hopefully we will not encounter bad weather, but if we do, please listen to the following radio station to inform you of school closures or late opening times:

RADIO LEICESTER 104.9 FM

Or look at the BBC radio Leicester web site for details of school closures - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/local/leicester/hi/>



Please do not telephone the radio station, as this will hinder the process.

Up to date information will also be on the College website (www.guth.org.uk).

Dates for your Diary

16 December	Service of Readings and Carols - All Saints Church
20 & 21 December	Christmas Concert
22 December	End of Term
2012	
9 January	Start of Spring Term
12 January	Year 9 Parent Briefing
16 January	Year 11 Parent Evening
25 January	Year 11 Parent Evening
7 - 10 March	College Production Week
12 March	Year 10 Parent Evening
16 - 18 March	Young Americans (Sir Jonathan North Community College)
22 March	Year 10 Parent Evening
23 March	Sport Relief
30 March	End of Term



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