



Learning to Succeed

# Guthlaxton College

January 2012 - Issue No. 5 - 2011/2012

**Tiger News**

## *Foreword from the Principal*

Happy New Year; welcome back and what a term and year we have to look forward to.

By the time you are reading this many of our students have sat some of their final GCSE exams already; the rehearsals are well underway for the College production of 'Crazy for You', plans are afoot for the return of The Young Americans and, how many of you are still on target with your resolutions?

The new College entrance developments have caused some necessary disruption and I thank you all for your understanding and patience. It is possible to distinguish from the steel skeleton outline that is now emerging, how radically different it will look when it is completed in the next few months. It will be a gateway to the powerful and vital changes that have taken place within Guthlaxton - and the promise of so much more to come.

Reflecting on the significant developments in South Wigston announced at the end of last year regarding academies, we will respond positively to these and other educational developments locally, in Leicestershire and nationally. Academies, Trusts, reorganisation, partnerships and families of schools; relationships changing, forming, evolving and deepening. These are dramatic times as the educational landscape is transformed. I am optimistic because all the schools in the Wigston area have a strong tradition of working together for the greater good of all our students so expect some exciting developments to come.

We are also optimistic that Guthlaxton, and the members of our community, will continue to thrive because we all know that with all challenges also comes opportunity. "It is in changing we find purpose" Heraclitus.

We are expecting an OfSTED visit during the next twelve months and, believe it or not, I am looking forward to it. Even though the standards expected of all schools have been raised; the new OfSTED framework is tougher than ever before with many an 'Outstanding' rated school possibly now getting satisfactory, or the recently announced, "requiring improvement" grade. And yet, even under these far more challenging criteria I am expecting Guthlaxton College to achieve good with outstanding features. I am anticipating that we will also match Oadby Beauchamp's headline 5A\*-C GCSE percentage this year! I am hoping that we will be the most improved Upper school in Leicestershire for the third year running!

How can we do it? How do we do it? I believe it is because we have the best staff and some of the most wonderful students making the most of their talents and opportunities. With hard work and your support we are being the best we can be.

Wishing everyone a happy and successful New Year.

*John Keller*  
*Principal*



### 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

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

Here is a reminder of the various health professionals we work with: Kathy Elliott, the College Counsellor, Alex Yeomanson, the School Nurse, Jayne Bond, the Attendance Improvement Officer, Phil Harbour, the Educational Psychologist, the LRI Hospital School, local GP and Health Clinics, the Leicestershire Partnerships NHS Trust, Social Service Departments and Kathryn Heathcote, Oadby & Wigston Substance Use Prevention Officer. 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
Glennie	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 paramount as we strive to meet the needs of our young people and in 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. If you have any concerns regarding your son/daughter please contact the College and we will endeavour to secure appropriate support.

### 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. I am delighted that the work developed by Healthy Schools Leicestershire is being adopted to be taught as a pilot. This will be reviewed in the Autumn term 2012.

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

### Stay Safe

#### E-Safety

Once again the Christmas and New Year period witnessed a huge sale of electronic items particularly across the 14-19 age range. As parents/carers please make sure you are e-safety aware to support our young people and help to steer them away from e-dangers.

You can help you child by exploring the following websites which are particularly parent friendly:

[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)  
[www.getnetwise.org](http://www.getnetwise.org)

We must protect our young people from this growing danger which is becoming increasingly commonplace.

### Enjoy and Achieve

#### Guthlaxton Arts

The fourth edition of Guthlaxton College Arts has been published. This is a comprehensive review of our Autumn Term activities across Media, Performing and Visual Arts. It is available on the website and hard copies can be obtained from the College upon request.

#### Year 10/12 Annual Reviews

The Year 10/12 Annual Review meetings are scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2012. These follow on from the highly successful Year 11/13 Reviews in November. Parents/carers, students and outside agencies will be receiving an invitation shortly to attend these valuable meetings.

Please contact Tracey Sharpe (Inclusion Team) if you need any clarification regarding these forthcoming reviews.

#### Rewards

The New Year and the late Autumn data trawl has given an opportunity for reflection upon the achievement of our young people. The College is striving to develop a positive reward culture, 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
780	655	795	670

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

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

#### Young Americans

The 2012 Young Americans European Tour will return to Leicester from Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Places are being taken and students are responding well to the opportunity. Letters are still available from the College at Student Reception and Main Reception, Lisa Robinson or Sally Cox. It is a great opportunity to participate and above all to enjoy and achieve. In addition we are seeking hosts for our Young American visitors, once again we have received a number of offers; any further offers please contact Lisa Robinson (ESCo) or Sally Cox. 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 only £50.00. This is outstanding value for money.



#### Year 12 Geography Students visit Barcelona

The geographers in Year 12 made their way to Barcelona on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November for a five day field work extravaganza. They were accompanied by Mark Birkenshaw and Sally Cox.

During their week in the early winter sunshine of the Costa Brava the students used a variety of fieldwork techniques to explore urban rebranding in the El Ravel district of Central Barcelona; to investigate the impact of flash flooding on Riera de Ribes and Vendrell; to study the effect of rural rebranding in Priorat and sustainability in the Catalan Manchester 22@ and the Olympic Village.

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal



It was a hugely successful tour and the students were excellent ambassadors for Guthlaxton College. The Barcelona Field Studies Centre staff enjoyed working with the group and the management of the hotel in Villanova emailed to say...

"Me alegro de que los clientes hayan estado bien. La verdad es que, a pesar de la edad de los estudiantes, han tenido un comportamiento impecable en el hotel."

When translated the comment says:

I'm really happy about how good the customers have been. The truth is that, in spite of the age of the students, their behaviour in the hotel has been impeccable.



Our thanks to the parents/carers of the students and staff at Guthlaxton College, the Barcelona Field Studies Centre and the Atenea Aparthotel in Villanova for making the whole experience possible and well done to the students who responded to the demands of the programme of working from 8.35am to 8.00pm each day without complaint and for making the week a fun-packed experience for all.

### Make a Positive Contribution To College Parent/Carers Partnership 2011-12

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 10	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	4.00 – 6.30pm
	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2012	6.00 – 8.30pm

If you have any concerns about your son/daughter's progress 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.

### Year 9 High School Liaison

The Year 9 High School liaison programme is well underway with the arrival of the New Year and the Spring term.

Throughout the Autumn term there was on-going activity which gains even greater momentum this term as we support our Year 9 pupils, parents and their High School teachers as we plan and prepare for the Key Stage 4 transfer in late August.

Admission forms, option forms and curriculum information has been circulated to support the Year 9 Parent Information Evening held at Guthlaxton College on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January. All parents and prospective students were invited to hear news of the transfer process and meet with staff and students to ask questions and seek information.

Throughout the week commencing Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January every pupil in Year 9 in our three feeder High Schools was interviewed to help guide and support young people to help make their Key Stage 4 choice of pathways.

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

Additionally, Faculty and Subject Heads have been speaking in Year 9 assemblies at each of the schools. In addition members of the Leadership Team will be present at the Year 9 Parent evenings in each of the High Schools.

Where there are issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the College either by telephone 0116 2881611 or by email [guth@guth.org.uk](mailto:guth@guth.org.uk). In addition our new website [www.guth.org.uk](http://www.guth.org.uk) is worth visiting to help to support your choices.

### Uniform

Once again I am taking this opportunity to thank all parents for supporting the College in our efforts to improve standards of dress.

The following is a reminder of our uniform requirements:

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"> <li>● Trousers should be full length; <b>leggings, combat style trousers, jeans or shorts are not acceptable.</b></li> <li>● Shirts should be largely plain; <b>lumberjack designs are not acceptable.</b></li> <li>● Girls should be wearing tops with shoulders covered; <b>vest tops are not acceptable.</b></li> <li>● All boys should be wearing a tie.</li> <li>● Sensible shoes should be worn (<b>no trainers</b>).</li> <li>● Jewellery should be discreet.</li> <li>● Jumpers, cardigans and sweaters should not contain huge logos.</li> <li>● <b>Hoodies are not considered to be smart and if worn as outer clothing should be removed in college.</b></li> <li>● All students should wear the Sixth Form lanyard and ID.</li> </ul>	<p>The KS4 Guthlaxton College uniform consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Black jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan with the College logo.</li> <li>● Plain black full-length trousers or skirts. <b>It should be noted that leggings, combat style trousers, jeans or shorts are not acceptable.</b></li> <li>● 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.</li> <li>● Sensible black footwear. <b>Boots, trainers and high heeled shoes are not part of the College uniform and should not be worn.</b></li> <li>● Outdoor coats should be plain and removed prior to entry to the classroom. This removal includes hats, scarves and gloves.</li> <li>● All students must wear the House lanyard and ID.</li> </ul>

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.

There has been a uniform monitoring check over the last two weeks and we are pleased to say that in the majority of cases students were appropriately dressed. All students who were not in correct uniform have been followed up with letters and telephone calls to parents/carers.

### The Care & Guidance Matters Agenda

The work of the Care & Guidance and Inclusion Teams is highlighted by the Care & Guidance Team Matters Agenda. This has provided a weekly focus upon attainment, attendance, attitude to learning, behaviour,

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

preparedness (including kit and uniform), progress and punctuality, enabling us to monitor the outcomes of ECM and the on-going development of our young people.

### Attendance Matters Update

The Autumn term offered a great challenge in our efforts to improve attendance and we were rewarded with a slight improvement on last year. Attendance is scrutinised by the Care & Guidance Team and the LA in our efforts to meet the attendance target of 95%. The following table compares attendance for the current academic year with 2010-11.

Date Week/end	17/12/10	20/12/10	14/01/11
	16/12/11	23/12/11	13/01/12
Year 10	92.0	91.6	91.7
	92.7	92.5	92.6
Year 11	90.5	90.2	90.5
	91.5	91.3	91.5
Overall KS4	91.2	90.9	91.0
	92.1	91.9	92.1
Year 12	92.7	92.2	92.3
	93.2	93.1	93.1
Year 13	89.8	89.3	89.4
	93.3	93.4	93.5
Overall KS5	91.6	91.9	91.2
	93.3	93.2	93.3
College Overall	91.3	90.9	91.1
	92.4	92.2	92.4

It demonstrates the pattern of attendance was similar to last year's. "Lost Learning" continues to be a major cause for concern for the College, this results from non-attendance and lateness. It results in impacting upon the performance of our young people which is reflected in recent government figures; the poor habits learnt by our students; and the effect 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%.

It is "everyone's responsibility" to secure high attendance. The following figures may help you to understand that "attendance matters" and that securing high levels of attendance ensures examination success. Last year 74.7% of students with attendance over 90% achieved 5+ GCSEs or (equivalent) Grade A\* - C. Only 31% of students with below 90% attendance achieved 5+ GCSEs. Do you know your son/daughter's attendance and their chance of success?

Teaching and associate staff at the College and the Attendance Improvement Service Team at the Local Authority are working together to improve this and it is important that as parents/carers you play your part in establishing good habits now as we pave the way to a lifetime of success for our young people.

### Behaviour Matters Update

The Autumn term behaviour strategy summary reflects the trends in managing behaviour for the first part of the academic year 2011-12.

Week Ending	Half term 1	Half Term 2	Total
Guidance Intervention Centre	26	55	81
Serious Incident Response	67	126	193
Informal Governors' Hearings	7	1	8
Exclusion Fixed Term	12	41	53
Exclusion Permanent	0	1	1

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

These trends indicate positive outcomes and show an improvement in student behaviour. It is important that we continue to work together to address these issues.

### Preparedness Matters

We strive to ensure that all our young people arrive at College dressed in the College uniform and equipped with 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 essential in these tough times that our students are well-prepared for their role at College as independent learners.

### Punctuality Matters

Once again we are making every effort to support our young people to be at College and in lessons on time. The statistics relating to lateness demonstrate how easily minutes late accrue into days of lost learning if lateness remains unchecked. This was illustrated in our last newsletter and I share this with you once again.

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

We hope that you will support the efforts of the Care & Guidance team as we work towards improving both attendance and punctuality. It is important that our young people see us working collaboratively to ensure that all students enjoy and achieve their full potential and have a happy and successful future.

The Care & Guidance Matters agenda links closely to the five values of the College:



Your support as parents/carers is vital in ensuring that your son/daughter takes responsibility for their own attendance, behaviour preparedness, punctuality and uniform, 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 in preparing them for their role in 21<sup>st</sup> century society.

### 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**

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

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

### Make a Positive Contribution to the Community

#### The Wigston Arts Federation Festival

The continuing outstanding work of Performing Arts across the Wigston Family of Schools will be highlighted once again this summer with the third annual Wigston Arts Federation Festival. The programme is scheduled from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July and is a month long pot pourri of literature, media, performance and visual arts. It promises to celebrate the success of the various art forms across the borough and it will be an exciting collaborative event. Watch this space as the programme unfolds throughout the forthcoming issues of the newsletter.



#### Wigston Family of Schools Extended Services Pupil Conference

The third annual Wigston Family of Schools (WFOS) Extended Services Pupil Conference held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December was a huge success.

Attended by over 200 young people and their teachers led by 24 Art of Brilliance Ambassadors from Guthlaxton College the day was a fun-packed event with a host of activity demonstrating "being brilliant." The conference was opened by Rendell Munroe, bantamweight boxer, who very quickly became WFOS hero. He spoke to the pupils about their desire to become great and to achieve this ambition they needed school and their teachers.

Glen Hills Primary School won the super hero competition. However, everyone who attended was a winner and they were all brilliant and returned to their individual schools to show everyone else how to be brilliant. Our thanks to Rendell, to Parklands Leisure Centre for the use of their facilities, to Lisa Robinson for organising the event and to the headteachers and staff of the schools. Above all a huge thank you and tribute to the Guthlaxton Art of Brilliance Ambassadors who were BRILLIANT!

#### Christmas Hampers 2011

Our partnership with Age UK, Wigston has once again continued this festive season with our traditional Christmas Hamper appeal for the elderly citizens of Wigston.

The BTEC students launched the Hamper appeal at the end of November with their entertaining performance of Christmas Present, Past & Future starring Ebenezer Scrooge.

This led to a hive of activity across the College as tutor groups in each of the Houses competed to produce a creative array of hampers depicting Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Christmas trees, a Christmas cracker, plum puddings, mince pies, a Christmas train through to the more traditional baskets. Over 75 hampers were produced and these have been distributed across Wigston to our elderly citizens, names and addresses of whom were supplied by Age UK.



Our thanks go to our judges, Peter Osgood (Chair of Governors), John Dutton (Governor), Alison Forster (IAG Co-ordinator) and Anne Coulstock (Age UK) who had the difficult task of judging; the PE Faculty who were evicted from the gym whilst the proceedings went on; Tina Milton and Suzi Cooper in Reprographics; our tutors, teachers and associate staff, students and parents for their generosity and support throughout the successful process. We hope that we have brought some Christmas cheer to our neighbours. We also acknowledge a huge thanks to Abington High School for their kind donations of food and other items which have been put to excellent use.

The winners of the hamper contest were:

	<b>De Montfort</b>	<b>Glennie</b>	<b>Herrick</b>	<b>Wistan</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	DYP	GRH	HRD	WMG
2 <sup>nd</sup>	DZB	GRS	HNB	WME
3 <sup>rd</sup>	DNJ	GED	HCV	WKN
4 <sup>th</sup>	DWE	GKR	HVT	WIB

Overall winners: WHT – 12 Days of Christmas

Staff winner: C & G Team – Christmas Shopping (Harrods)



## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

Additionally, this year the Christmas Celebration Concert on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December was in support of Age UK, Wigston. The audience of over 200 enjoyed a festive programme of carols, folk music, concert band entertainment, strings, saxophone and their seasonal musical sound bites.

Long may this partnership continue bringing a wealth of opportunity and sharing between the generations of citizens across our community.



### Christmas at All Saints Church, Wigston

It has been a delight to join in the Christmas festivities at All Saints Church, Wigston once again this year.

The BTEC Vocational students led by Holly Hincks and Janet Wilkes entered into the spirit of the 2011 Christmas Tree Festival which raised over £2000 for the church room refurbishment. It was held on 10-11<sup>th</sup> December.

Our Christmas tree entry was built in traditional wood, reflecting the Christmas theme, a tree, candle pieces, a cross and Merry Xmas. It was produced by the students who were proud to be a part of the fifth tree festival.



Handmade carpentry and joinery display decorated by Year 11 BTEC Vocational Studies

We received the following from the organising committee

13 December 2011



### **Christmas Tree Festival 2011** **All Saints' Parish Church Wigston Magna**

Dear All,

I am writing on behalf of the All Saints Church, Wigston, to express our gratitude to you for taking part in our fifth Christmas Tree Festival. Thanks to all your hard work, the event was an outstanding success, and has raised over £2,000 for All Saints' Churchroom refurbishment fund. Many visitors said how lovely the Church looked, bedecked with greenery and illuminated by a myriad of tiny lights on the Christmas trees.

We very much appreciated the special themes chosen, whether for their poignancy, beauty, or simply fun, and we realise that you had put a lot of thought and work into your display.

## News Update from Sally Cox, Deputy Principal

It was extremely hard I know for the visitors to vote for their favourite tree, as they were all excellent, but as with all competitions there had to be a winner. The most votes for the Community Tree went to Wigston & Knighton Floral Society for their Winter Wonderland, and the favourite Church Tree went to All Saints' Choir. But, well done to you all, and I hope that you will support us again in the future.

Written for and on behalf of the Social Committee.

Angela & Ron Pitches

The following Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> December we held our second service of readings and carols for Christmas. According to the Rev. Richard Curtis, this has now become a tradition! The lessons were read by Phoebe Hammond, Gregory Greenfield, Emily Barnes, Tom Carlin and John Keller.

There were congregational carols which included "Once In Royal David's City," "While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks By Night," "We Three Kings of Orient Are," "O Come all Ye Faithfull" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." In addition the choir sang "The Sans Day Carol," "Away in a Manger," "Ding Dong Merrily," "Torches" and the first performance of Will Smith's "Low How a Rose." They sang beautifully and were incredible ambassadors for the College. The event concluded with Adam Langeveld who played "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" by Noel Rawsthorne on the organ – in a fitting finale to a wonderful service of readings and carols.

We look forward to returning next year.

### Global Partnerships

Our links with Zambia are well underway and we have been allocated Luanshya Central High School in Luanshya Zambia. The Headteacher, Jonearet Phiri, is delighted with the partnership and we are working together upon a citizenship programme to support the development of PD in Guthlaxton and English, Social and Civil Studies in Luanshya.

We have just completed an application to the British Council for funding. It is hoped that we will be successful as this will help to nurture our links and enable the programme to flourish.

I look forward to updating you about our collaborative project.

### Christmas Card Collection

Once again we are collaborating with Leicestershire County Council in being a collection point for the recycling of used Christmas and other greetings cards.

The recycling is on behalf of the Royal British Legion, a very worthwhile cause whose work is year round and we tend to focus our efforts supporting this charity in November during the Remembrance Day services.

Please send any used and unwanted cards for this worthy cause and let us consider our green footprint as we try to seek to establish a sustainable environment for future generations.

### News from an Ex-Student

James Gardner attended Guthlaxton College from 2003-2007. He now lives and works in Leeds having gained a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in his Bachelor of Science and Master of Mathematics course at Leeds University.

He has set himself a challenge of running 12 half marathons in 2012, running in one race in each month. He is raising money for Cancer Research UK in the process, trying to raise as much as he can for this great cause. It would be wonderful if we could support James in this challenge by donating money and visiting his Just Giving page at: [www.justgiving.com/James-Gardner-2012](http://www.justgiving.com/James-Gardner-2012).

He completed the first of his half marathons on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2012, running the



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Central Lancashire New Year's half marathon in 1hour 26 mins 9secs (1:26:09) and coming 32<sup>nd</sup> out of the 364 runners. The total James has raised so far is £206. His next race is on 19<sup>th</sup> February in Brighton and he will be travelling around the UK to various places for the remaining races, also doing 2 races in Europe! If anyone is interested in following his progress, they can e-mail him at james\_gardner1988@hotmail.co.uk and he will update them. His progress can also be followed via his blog given below:

[www.jamesgardner2012challenge.blogspot.com](http://www.jamesgardner2012challenge.blogspot.com).

Please support James in this worthwhile venture and we wish him the very best of luck in achieving his 2012 ambition.



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### Nattalie Dennard

5<sup>th</sup> July 1997 – 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011

We returned to College for the final week of the Autumn Term to hear the sad news Nattalie Dennard had died after a fight against cancer.

Nattalie joined the College in late August 2011 and in the short four months that she was a student with us we came to know her so well and she touched the hearts and minds of so many who had contact with her.

A young person so slight in her demeanour, yet so steadfast and strong in her courage and strength of fight. Even in her darkest moments everyone who met her, students, teaching and associate staff, governors, parents and visitors to the College were treated to her wonderful smile and a word to share. It may have been about the bag she had recently bought which matched her House and College lanyard that she was so proud to wear, or the delightful pink duffle coat which both she and I loved so much.

Nattalie enjoyed being at College, where others less committed to their studies, would have stayed at home had they suffered the pain that Nattalie endured. She valiantly attended and was spurred on by the company of her friends and her determination to maintain her Key Stage 4 studies. In spite of the fact that her days were so numbered she continued insisting that her teachers sent work to the hospital for her to complete.

Nattalie was a real inspiration to everyone at the College and we felt so extremely privileged to have known her, if only for a short while. She taught us the true meaning of bravery in the face of great adversity, a lesson from one so young and a wonderful star in our midst.

*Sally Cox*  
*Deputy Principal*

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## Sixth Form News January 2012

Happy New Year! Most of our sixth form students are currently involved in module exams, so the atmosphere throughout January has been calm and studious. Mrs Rebecca Rose has started her work as Post 16 Student Manager and is working with students on a wide variety of issues; she has some specific students with whom she is assertively mentoring to support them in increasing their current level of academic performance.

Meetings with the Sixth Form Management Team were suspended for the exam season, but they recommence towards the end of January to plan for the end of this half term charity and social event.

Punctuality to college has seen a positive improvement; the monitoring policy set up in the Autumn Term has seen the figures halved. Students who arrive late now also have their name appear on the home screen as students log on to computers in college. Worst offenders have also made up lost time, staying behind after college or working at lunch time in the PSA.

## Applications to the Sixth Form 2012

Year 11 students will soon begin to receive details of their offer into the Sixth Form for September 2012. Those students with a predicted average point score of 40 will meet with a member of the Care and Guidance Team during the week of Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February to discuss their application. Evidence suggests that students with this score or lower find A levels challenging and some make the decision to leave. Staff will talk through students' applications to ensure that they are fully aware of the demands of A level courses. Students being offered a place on a contract will also meet with staff. Contracts are based on a student's performance throughout Year 10 and 11; there may be a concern over attendance or punctuality or of suitability and motivation for further study. Any Year 11 student on a contract will be expected to satisfactorily complete the rest of this academic year to secure their place in the sixth form.

## Applications to University 2011 Entry

Guthlaxton has a strong tradition of students applying to university through UCAS each year. On average three quarters of Year 13 apply to university with a steady year on year increase; 2008 68%, 2009 71% and 2010 80%. However, in 2011, this figure has dropped to 70%, potentially due to the increase in university fees. 5 ex-students have also applied to university during their gap year.

## Key Headlines:

- The number of applications was down by 10%.
- 70% of Guthlaxton students who applied were accepted on courses following their A level results which is a slight reduction on last year at 74%.
- Three more students went through Clearing in 2011 and three students changed their courses on Extra following receipt of their results.
- The gap between male and female applicants reduced again in 2011: a difference of 20 students compared to 26 in 2010.
- More students were accepted onto courses in the 180 to 239 points tariff band (50% change compared to 2010)

## Key subjects applied for

Subject Groups	% of total applicants
Creative Arts and Design	10 (11 in 2010)
Combined Arts	9 (11 in 2010)
Biological Sciences (includes Sports Science, psychology etc.)	9 (9.17 in 2010)
Business & Admin	9
Maths and Computer Studies	9

## Most popular destinations:

University	% of students
DMU	16 (10 in 2010)
Sheffield Hallam	5 (9.17 in 2010)
Nottingham Trent	7 (8.26 in 2010)
Leicester	4 (8.26 in 2010)

Applications to University 2012 Entry

The application process for entry to university in September 2012 is now ended. All of our applications were sent before the UCAS deadline and students are in the process of receiving offers. Year 13 students should take careful note of the deadline indicated to them personally to accept offers; it is usually between February and May. In Work Related Learning sessions, our focus will now be on preparing to go to university with some presentations from universities and talks from undergraduates.

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	21
Glenne		37	34	29
Herrick		31	28	29
Wistan		23	25	24
Guthlaxton total	129	126	113	103
Percentage of Year 13 students	68%	71%	82%	70%
Ex-students	3	9	17	5
Overall totals	132	135	130	108

*Deb Wilson*

*Assistant Principal*

## Performing Arts



## GUTHLAXTON COLLEGE

### Dates – At a Glance 2012

<b>31<sup>st</sup> January 2012</b> Tuesday	<b>Richard Attenborough Centre, Soundbites</b> <b>12.45 – 1.45 free entry</b>	College Chamber Orchestra.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b> Saturday	<b>St Thomas' Church, South Wigston</b> <b>Joint Concert.</b>	College Choir & Orchestra
<b>7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> Wednesday- Saturday	<b>College musical 'Crazy for You' 7.30pm</b> <b>Main College Hall and Matinee to High School Wednesday at 1.30pm</b>	Drama, Dance & Music Students
<b>16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> Friday – Sunday	<b>Young Americans at Sir Jonathan North</b> <b>Community College.</b>	College Students
<b>21<sup>st</sup> March 2012</b> Wednesday	<b>Wigston Family of Schools Instrumental</b> <b>Day, Main Hall.</b>	High Schools & College Ensembles
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012</b> Friday	<b>Acoustic night, Main Hall 7.30pm</b>	College Music Students
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> Thursday	<b>Bagworth village hall 8.30pm – 9.30pm</b> <b>tickets available on the door.</b>	College Big Band
<b>27<sup>th</sup> March 2012</b> Tuesday	<b>Richard Attenborough Centre, Soundbites</b> <b>12.45-1.45 fee entry.</b>	College Big Band
<b>4<sup>th</sup> May 2012</b> Friday	<b>Rock School Concert Main Hall</b>	College Students' Event
<b>21<sup>st</sup> June 2012</b> Thursday	<b>Wigston Family of Schools Instrumental Day</b> <b>and Concert 4pm</b>	High Schools & College Ensembles
<b>28<sup>th</sup> &amp; 29<sup>th</sup> June 2012</b> Thursday & Friday	<b>Bye Bye Blues Concert, Main College Hall</b>	College Music, Dance & Drama students.
<b>9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> July 2012</b> Monday – Friday	<b>Music tour to Belgium</b>	Music students all Years 10-13

## Festive Fayre Competition 2011

Once again all our Year 10 students were busy designing and making a festive product at the end of last term and entered this into a competition.

The judges Mr Keller, Mrs Cox and Miss Davies were most impressed with not only the wide variety of products produced but also the quality of them! Well done to all but as always there can only be a few winners and these were:



1<sup>st</sup> - Emma Carpenter



2<sup>nd</sup> - Daniel Smith



3<sup>rd</sup> - Megan Curtis



Packaging prize -  
Sam Harrison

Class prizes:

10B - Daniel Smith, 10D - Alicia Hellyer, 10C - Megan Curtis, 10G(CV) - Emma Carpenter, 10G(WE) - Vanessa Smith, 10J - Joe Smith.

## Young Chef of the Year Competition

Years 10,11 and 12 recently took part in the Young Chef of the Year Competition sponsored by the Oadby & Wigston Rotary Club, and once again the judges commented on the excellent standard and that the students have every reason to be proud of their achievement.

The competitors were:

Year 10

Matthew Green

Year 11

Harvey Royle

Lydia Rushton

Year 12

Dane Pemberton

Mathew Bacon

Tom Heggs

Jana-Liss Cooper

Jenna Finch

As always there could only be three winners and these were:



1<sup>st</sup> place - Jenna Finch

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Jana-Liss Cooper

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Dane Pemberton

Congratulations to these students but also a massive well done to all those who took part.

Jenna & Jana-Liss represented the College at the next stage which took place at the Samworth Academy on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

*Chris Vaughan*

Guthlaxton College Presents

**GERSHWIN'S** HIT MUSICAL

**CRAZY  
FOR  
YOU**

**B  
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A  
Y**

**7<sup>TH</sup>-10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

Tickets Available from College Reception  
0116 288 1611

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](mailto:guth@guth.org.uk), or in writing.



## Information in case of bad weather

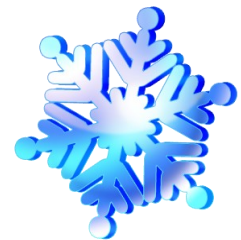
Hopefully we will not encounter bad weather, but if we do, please listen to the following radio station to inform you of school closures or late opening times:

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](http://www.guth.org.uk)).



### Dates for your Diary

7 - 10 March	College Production Week - Crazy for You
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
16 April	Start of Summer Term
7 May	May Day Holiday
1 - 8 June	Half Term Break
2 July	Year 9 Induction Parent Evening
13 July	End of Term



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Principal: Mr J Keller BSc (Hons), MA, MBA.