

# MAPLEWELL NEWSLETTER

## Preparing for Adulthood

### MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

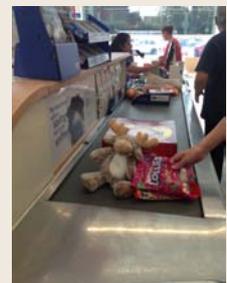
Many thanks to all who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning. The students looked great in their 'wearing it green' attire.

We are thrilled to announce that we raised an impressive sum of £556.17 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



### P4A

IICJ and Mat the Moose took a trip to Tesco to prepare for adulthood, by navigating our way around the store, interacting with the public, practicing some real-life Math's skills, including sticking to a budget and using a shopping list.



### 9KI Trip

9KI have been to Stratford-Upon-Avon today and visited Shakespeare's Birthplace. A fantastic time was had by all!



## Important Dates to Remember

Monday 16th October  
2023 to Friday 20th  
October 2023

Half Term Break



Friday 3rd November  
2023

Bonfire and Fireworks  
Display (Mainsite)



Monday 6th November  
2023 - Friday 10th  
November 2023

Poppies will be on Sale  
for the week



Friday 17th November  
2023

Children In Need 2023



Monday 20th November  
2023

Staff Training Day



## Science

Year 8 students had a fantastic science lesson dissecting some organs! They had the opportunity to watch up close a dissection of pig's heart, kidney and brain! They thoroughly enjoyed learning about the heart and were especially thrilled when we came across some excellent blood clots! We had some very brave students who were eager to touch the organs, but don't worry, they were all very safe and considered PPE. A fantastic lesson for the students, well done!



## 11B Maths

In Math's, students in IIB group got a feel for how much things weigh. This helped them with their studies of the measurement unit of their course.



They also had fun working out the height of buildings and trees using angles and a trundle wheel. This involved using a top-secret method to find the correct 'special angle'!



## 8DW

Students in 8DW had fun making sock puppets. This followed on from an activity they recently completed in reading time on different types of puppets



## Careers Fair 2023

It was decided to bring the annual Careers Fair forward this year to help support students and parents to make the important choices for their futures. On September 26th we were hosts at Maplewell Hall Woodhouse Eaves site to the following colleges:

Leicester College

Sense College

Loughborough College

Derby College

Homefield College

BMC Stevenson/Brooksby College

Gateway College

NWSL (Unable to attend)

WHM/Berricott Alternative placement



The Gym was filled with a buzz of students all day who really enjoyed the experience of being able to chat to the colleges about their future plans. It was also an ideal opportunity for parents to join in with the event and gain knowledge about the different courses that the colleges had on offer, and the support they could give, all under one roof.

It was reported by the colleges that our students were very polite and asked interesting and intelligent questions which impressed our guests. This was a great opportunity for everyone involved and has started a springboard into this new academic year. The Careers Fair works hand in hand with the upcoming Annual Reviews for students and another opportunity to look at potential placements to move on to after Maplewell.

Following on from our event, on the Maplewell website there are links to the College Open Days and I encourage students to attend these events. If you need any further information around careers or colleges please get in touch with me at: [carmenblades@maplewell.leics.sch.uk](mailto:carmenblades@maplewell.leics.sch.uk)





## What grows around, comes around: an interview with the Gardening Club

Everyone enjoys plant-based products; from the food on our plates, to the clothes on our backs, and even the paper we write on, we rely on crops for many daily necessities. Plants need a lot of care and effort to grow, which is something that our resident Maplewell gardeners, the 11MNJ gardening club, can attest to. These aspiring gardeners, who call themselves “The Special Forces” have been tending to a small vegetable garden for a year now and have successfully grown a range of crops all by themselves! In today’s story, the gardeners will be answering a few questions all about their hobby – and hopefully inspiring others to follow in their footsteps!

First things first, what have they been growing exactly? According to Jacob, the club has successfully grown “Tomatoes, rhubarb, cabbage, potatoes, pumpkin, onions, and beetroots” – quite the selection for only a year of gardening! “You can give the produce to the kitchen. We get a lot of crops, so we give some away”. When asked about the secret to their success, George answered with “We don’t talk about the fertiliser. It’s got some really special ingredients in it.”

The gardeners all believe that growing your own food is very important. “It’s cheaper and involves other people, so it’s better”- commented Riley - “It’s actually cheaper because we get less stuff from companies”. Lewis, another member of the club, replied with “[the produce] is freshly grown, not fatty, healthier, and good for the planet”. Furthermore, according to Elliot, “It gives life skills”. It seems to me that growing your own food is full of benefits – to your health, skills, and wallet.

Gardening is not all sunshine and roses, however. When asked about the challenges, George said that “communication is a big problem”. “We’ve had problems with members and miscommunication” George said. When you have a team of five people, it’s not always easy to be on the same page about everything. “The people I work with are very annoying”, explained Elliot. “We’ve had to learn better teamwork”. Furthermore, plants need care every week, despite the weather outside. “The weather can be challenging, but we’ve had to grin and bear through it”, commented Elliot.

Despite some hiccups, Mrs C, who oversees the gardening club, has said that “They’ve been brilliant, it’s been a brilliant year.” When the group pitched the idea of a gardening club to her, she didn’t expect them to stick to it for this long. “They’ve taken an idea, ran with it, stuck to it, and have been managing it independently”.

So what can we learn from the gardening club? Although gardening can be challenging at times, through hard work, perseverance, and patience, you too can enjoy your very own – and very tasty – home grown products, and be healthier, wealthier, and wiser for it!





## **Letter from the Head**

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term.

I am so pleased to announce that our Thailand trip was a massive success. I am sure that anyone who has seen the photographs on our social media pages will testify what a wonderful opportunity it is for our pupils. We believe in the power of trips and visits in helping our pupils to experience the world beyond the classroom. As a school, we always try and provide extensive trips and visits opportunities for pupils in all year groups every year. Knowledge and experience of the wider world is so important. Equally so, are the opportunities to visit the local community and link with local businesses.

The Macmillan coffee morning was a huge success and I am delighted to see the fantastic support that it was given by our whole school community. Thank you so much for your ongoing support. I am sure that you will agree that the event looked amazing from the photographs, even if you were unable to attend. Please pay attention to the upcoming events as we continue to support a number of charities for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Having opportunities to develop our independent skills are invaluable, alongside our academic learning. Learning practical skills are so important, whether it be weighing ingredients or buying things at a local shop. Bringing learning to life and making it relevant for our pupils is so important. It helps to develop independence skills and helps youngsters to appreciate the world of work.

Providing opportunities for employment is something that we hold close to our hearts at Maplewell. There has been some outstanding work done in this area to date and it continues to go from strength to strength. We have a genuine focus on the next steps of every pupil's education. Providing meaningful work-related learning is vital for our pupils higher up the school. We have a record number of pupils accessing work placements currently. If you or you know of anybody who can assist us with potential placements for our pupils in post 16 please do get in touch. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

I look forward to another successful half-term at Maplewell. It is a long one until we finish on December 22nd. Please do remember that Monday 20th November is a staff training day, when pupils will not be in school.

Jason Brooks  
Headteacher