

MAPLEWELL HALL SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER



Message from Jason Brooks, Headteacher:

As the Spring term draws to a close and we get closer to Easter, we reflect on another very busy and rewarding term. I have just finished judging an Easter poster competition for the whole school. The quality of the work is stunning and I am rightly proud of our students in this wonderful school. Students have also been making Easter themed cakes, celebrating a wonderful time of the year.

The learning opportunities afforded to our young people are second to none at Maplewell. High quality learning does not simply happen. It is the result of effective partnerships and commitment between home and school. Our young people have their progress tracked throughout the year, which enables them to achieve favourably compared to their peers in other schools. I have a dedicated and committed team of staff who are all driven to get the very best outcomes for every student in school. They are encouraged to go 'above and beyond', which they invariably do. The rewards are vast, seeing young people make fantastic progress academically, socially and emotionally. They are a truly fantastic team of people.

A number of our students have recently returned from a brilliant residential experience at Walesby Forest, near to Newark. They all had a fantastic time and worked well as a team in supporting each other in a variety of outdoor learning activities. A big thank you to all staff who went on the trip and especially to Mr Hoult for organising and leading the trip. It is not an easy thing to manage and he ensured that all children were very well looked after.

We have started to see further improvements across our beautiful site this year and will continue to do so in the Summer term and beyond. Students will benefit from having some brand new outdoor play equipment, it will be installed during the Easter break between the year 7 Base and the Food room. and will provide students with a great resource for break and lunch times. We will be holding an official opening next term and I will be inviting our special friend, Jodie, from Tesco who was instrumental in Maplewell receiving the funds to purchase the play equipment. She has not been in the best of health recently but will always be welcome in school. Looking further ahead, we are planning to convert our tennis court into a state of the art, multi-use sports area. This will be achieved by installing new boarding, upgrading the lighting and most importantly installing a 3G artificial grass playing surface. It will be a fantastic resource for our young people for PE lessons and at social times. There will also be an extensive painting initiative across the site and a number of classrooms will be refurbished in order to further improve the learning environment for students. There are also future plans to expand our ASD provision and refurbish the changing rooms in the gym.

The visit of the Premier League Trophy caused a great stir amongst our school community. Rarely have I seen such excited faces on a Friday morning amongst staff, students, parents and carers. Everybody had an opportunity to have their photograph taken with the trophy on the day. The event helped to raise money for charity, as did Mrs Huggins, Mr Bradshaw and Mr Handley, who all had some drastic hair cuts during this term! Our students also took part in Red Nose day fund-raising events in addition to contributing to their nominated house charities. It has been a fantastic effort by staff and students alike. We should be proud of having such a caring school community.



Some of the beautiful daffodils at Maplewell this Spring.

Spring is a time of new beginnings, which was particularly relevant when myself and Mr Patterson met Mary Swales, a lovely lady who worked in service at Maplewell in 1939, when it was a private residence. She explained how she helped to prepare food and spent much of her time in one room washing the pots and scrubbing floors. All of this at the age of 14. Our students are extremely lucky to have the opportunity to continue their education until the age of 19 nowadays. Mary was the eldest of 5 and was sent away to work, her wages being posted back home in order to support her family. It reminds us all how fortunate we are these days.

There will be some dedicated revision sessions taking place for year 11 students during the Easter holidays. These have been designed to provide students with that extra boost of confidence as they work towards the completion of their GCSE's. Thank you in advance to all staff who have volunteered to give up their holiday time in order to support our students. We will also be running separate revision days for English and Maths during the first couple of weeks in the Summer term. This is another revision opportunity and parents will be encouraged to drop in for a coffee during both days in order to see how we teach our students at Maplewell and gain tips on helping to support our youngsters during the examination period.

Looking ahead to the Summer term, when the weather is hopefully warmer, it is a good time to remind our students of the high standards that we have set ourselves at Maplewell. I expect to see all students wearing the correct uniform at all times and want students to preserve the highest levels of tolerance of each other. It is our school and we all make the school what it is today, a great place for young people to enjoy their learning.

I hope that you all have a great break and look forward to seeing students on Tuesday 25th April.

Jason Brooks

E-Safety Workshop Sessions

Pupils at Maplewell all went to an appropriate e-safety workshop run by Leicestershire Police. They learnt many ways to stay safe and engaged very well with the sessions. The next step will be for pupils to sign the CEASE pledge to show that they are all a part of the sessions being run by the police to stay safe.



Commit to do all I possibly can to Eradicate the Abuse and Sexual Exploitation of Children and Young People in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

leics.police.uk/CEASE

#LLRCEASE

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
Could you spot the signs?

The full video Kayleigh's love story is now available on YouTube. We recommend that all adults watch this video so that you gain understanding of how young children are being groomed via the internet and technology. It is really important that both school and home continue to promote safety strategies to pupils to enable them to understand what to do if this ever happens to them.

K5 and Year 11 exam and leaving prep workshops

To date Tom Robson from a company called Kooth has come in and spoken to all of Y11 and K5 to help develop their understanding around stress and anxiety when doing exams and leaving school. The pupils were really engaged with the sessions and all received small goodies to remind them of the company's support outside of school. The company is funded by the local authority in ensuring pupils have access to support when needed.

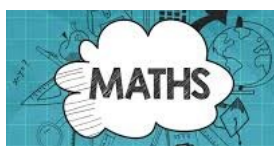


For further information please look on their website <https://kooth.com/>. The company will be visiting the rest of the school during this academic year.

GCSE Maths Booster Session

Friday 5th May

9:05am—2:30pm



Our Maths Department staff will lead the event, but we would like to invite you along to become involved in the session. You will be able to talk informally to teachers, have methods explained, pick-up revision and exam techniques as well as having the chance to support your child and their peers in the lead up to their exams.

Feel free to come and go at any time between 9:00 am and 2:00pm.

A buffet will be provided from 1:05pm to 2:05pm for those who come and support.

Premier League trophy visit to Maplewell

Callum Kirkwood from Leicester City Football club came into school on Friday 31st March with the premier league trophy.

Staff and students had the opportunity to have their photo taken with the trophy, which is made of silver and insured for £6.3 million!

The students really enjoyed the experience and there were smiles all round. Lets hope Leicester keep up their good fortune. Go Foxes!

February Mock Exam Volunteers

We would like to say a BIG thank you to parents who volunteered to support our students in their mock exams during February. This support was greatly appreciated and enabled each student the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability.

We are still looking for more volunteers to act as a reader or scribe to our students during the summer exams. The school will provide you with the necessary training. However, in order to volunteer you will need to hold GCSE certificates in English and Maths at grade C or above (or an equivalent qualification).

The exam timetable will be put on the school website.

If you are willing and able to offer your help, then please contact the school and ask for Kelly Taylor, Exams Officer. If you know of any other suitable adults who may also be willing to offer their time, then please pass this information on to them.



Walesby Forest Residential Trip

Maplewell year 7 students embarked on a residential trip to Walesby forest activity centre during the last week of March. This was for some students their first nights away from the family home, so a big step for many of our first year students. The trip was three days in length and comprised of a number of sporting outdoor activities including climbing, crate stacking, archery, laser quest, team building and the famous cave maze amongst others.

Our students were exemplary throughout the trip and gained some valuable experiences, stepping out of their comfort zone and supporting their peers in achieving common goals. This was definitely a trip that will now play an integral part in our year 7 cohorts building positive relationships across the year group and applying them outside the classroom.



Design & Technology, and Food

It has been a very busy half term. Year 7 and 9 have been working in food, with an amazing Afternoon Tea planned by year 9. Families should have been enjoying the trails of food throughout the term. They have made spring rolls, cupcakes, sausage rolls and a variety of sandwich fillings. Students were allowed to invite one guest from school to join them.

The craft club have made some lovely Mother's Day hearts. They were sold for pocket money prices and individualised by the students.



Variety Performing Arts

The rehearsals for the BTEC performance in June are in full swing. Can parents and carers please make sure students are rehearsing their lines at home. The performance will be on Wednesday 14th June at 7pm. A letter with further information will follow for tickets.

Year 9—Twycross Zoo

On the 21st of March some of the Year 9 students, as part of their recent English work, went on a trip to the County-renowned Twycross Zoo. Their recent studies have been in relation to travel writing and writing to persuade, looking at how a writer uses language techniques and structure for a certain purpose. The aim of their trip was therefore to write a review of the attraction based on their experiences and they each chose who their article is going to be aimed at.

New attractions at the Zoo, including the "Gibbon Forest" and "Lorikeet Landing" (where they had the opportunity for the birds to land on them whilst feeding), proved great entertainment for the children (and for Miss Grimley, Miss North and Mrs Clark), as well as old favourites like the giraffes, orang-utans and elephants. Most of the animals, apart from the elusive snow leopard, were out and about on the day for the children to see. The rain managed to hold off and the sun was shining, though the wind was a little bracing!

We would like to thank the staff at Twycross Zoo for the opportunity and the work they continue to do with all the animals in their care.



K5 Work Experience

The following students have taken part in work experience this year. Grace worked at Thurcaston Early Years Nursery. Adam did a week at Sports Trader in Loughborough. Hannah helped look after dogs from Garth Kennels. Katie spent a week learning about hair and beauty at Gabbi's Hairdressing in the village. Freyia found her own placement walking dogs with Dog Walkie Pet Service and goes every Friday. Will is working in the school kitchen every day giving him an excellent experience of how a school kitchen works. Melissa has been meeting and greeting people and learning about basic admin tasks on the school reception. Liam has been supporting younger students in school with their Maths and English.



NHS Careers Event

K5 students were given the opportunity to learn more about the wide variety of careers in the NHS and Social Care settings, including domiciliary care and care homes when they visited the NHS Careers Event at Leicester Race Course in March.

WE DAY

WE DAY is a celebration of young people, coming together to make positive change in the world. Inspirational speakers and world renowned performers including Kate Winslet, The Vamps, Jessie J, Bruce Dickenson and Conor Maynard joined 12,000 students at WE DAY at Wembley Arena

National Citizen Service

Year 11, 12, 13 and 14 students had a presentation from NCS (National Citizen Service) about the summer programmes they offer. For £25 students can go away for a week doing outdoor education activities, before attending residential workshops at Nottingham University and then putting together a community project. Two of our students attended last year and had a very rewarding time. If this sounds interesting you can find out more by going to: www.ncsyes.co.uk



Mrs Mary Swales and her daughter, Mrs Lynda Chapman visited the school. Mary was "in service" in this building in 1938-39 for 6 months, working as a kitchen maid for the Lady of the manor, well before this was a school. She mainly worked in the Butler's Pantry, and remembers that room above all others!



The school **book fair** will now be held on the 25th April - 9th May



Mr Bradshaw, Mrs Huggins and Mr Handley did a sponsored hair cut for the house charities. They raised £375!



Autism Workshops

Maplewell Hall School is pleased to be offering workshops to raise awareness and understanding of Autism. There are limited spaces available, for further information and to register your interest please contact Martine Mears on 01509 890237.

Thursday 11th May 4-5.30pm – Understanding the concept of autism as a spectrum

Thursday 25th May 4-5.30pm – Understanding the areas of difference

Thursday 8th June 4-5.30pm – Understanding behaviours for individuals with autism

Thursday 22nd June 4-5.30pm – Understanding how to communicate effectively with individuals with autism

Thursday 6th July 4-5.30pm – Understanding how to contribute to person centred support plans

92 texts were sent home for students with impeccable behaviour. Well done to all of those who received this text!

Martine Mears

Home School Link Worker



**Monthly Coffee Morning
For Parents / Carers of Year 7
Students**



When: Last Friday of the month
Where: Maplewell Hall
Time: 9.30-11.00am

School meals

Yet again, the school has had a 5 (top) rating following a food hygiene inspection!

Hopefully you will agree that we offer our school meals at a fantastic value, they are all freshly prepared by our staff on site. Unfortunately in order to continue to maintain the high quality and to meet the increased prices set by suppliers, the price of our school meals will increase from the Autumn term to £2.30. 10p lower than the price set by County.

A gentle reminder to parents—please can you keep your ParentPay accounts in credit. Thank you

Parent concerns

If you have any concerns in regards to your child could you please contact either the tutor team for your child or Home School Link Worker's. We will then ensure that the matters are dealt with accordingly. If you have any further concerns please speak to a member of the leadership team. Thank you

Melony Ison

Assistant Head



Plea! Can parents name every item of clothing or equipment that students bring into school.



Changes? Please can you inform the school of any changes to contact details or addresses. Thank you

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP



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TESCO SHELTHORPE

9:30am~11:30am

**1ST THURSDAY OF EVERY
MONTH**

Come along for a coffee and a chat and meet new people. We will have guest speakers, practical ideas around parenting and offer support for parents with children of all ages and abilities. For more details please contact Martine Mears or Jo Chivers on: 01509 890237