

# Maplewell Newsletter

Preparing for Adulthood

Issue 29

## New Term Letter from the Head

Welcome back to a brand new term, which is already proving to be an extremely busy one at Maplewell Hall School. It was great to see so many new faces, and familiar ones, at both of our sites.

There have been a number of changes to the sites, which have served to make our school a stimulating and fantastic place to be. This has included upgrading of classrooms, installation of specialist teaching areas and the ongoing development of our recreational and outdoor facilities.

Post 16 has seen changes to the curriculum, in order to promote even stronger, more sustainable outcomes for our young people. There has been a great deal of planning undertaken in order to make our 'college ready', 'work ready' and 'learning for life pathways'. Building our pupils' resilience and independence, in readiness for life beyond Maplewell, underpin the foundations across our curricula. Early signs are really encouraging, with 30+ post 16 pupils out daily on various types of work-related learning and work experience. This is an incredible achievement to date.

Part of our philosophy at Maplewell is to prepare our students for life beyond the school gates. Trips and visits are integral to this. There are so many opportunities for all pupils to undertake various trips and visits, including residential experiences. Our ground-breaking trip to Thailand is imminent and I was fortunate enough to see, first hand, the wonderful experiences that our pupils had on their recent Paris trip. The trip was expertly led by Mr James and the staff worked tirelessly in order to support every pupil and make it an exceptional experience for everyone.

Our after-school club provision has had a revamp and initial findings are very positive. The number of pupils attending is really healthy and they are enjoying the more informal activities that they can take part in, with their peers. Activities include scouts, swimming, cooking, board games, visits to Elite gaming and inclusive football to date. They will be more options coming online in the future.

The start of the term can always provide challenges for everyone. We are here to help. We have systems and layers in place in order to best support every pupil in school. The vast majority of parents and carers make good use of the various communication systems with school. Unfortunately, there are still incidences where social media is a go to for people to share their experiences and grievances. Please can I ask that if there is anything whatsoever that you would like to discuss, contact school in the first instance. Please do not criticise us on social media as this is unfair and risks potential reputational damage to the school. We do have set procedures to deal with any queries that come into school and I ask that we are always your first port of call. This is part of a really effective partnership that benefits every pupil at Maplewell.

I am really looking forward to our Macmillan coffee morning, in collaboration with Costa coffee, and there will be an opportunity for parents and carers to come along to both sites for a cup of coffee and a chat. I am sure that there will be cake on offer too. It will be great to see those of you who are able to attend and it will be a great fund raiser too.

Jason Brooks  
Headteacher



### COMPASS News:

Over the summer Hope Restell our S&LT Assistant received the news that she was successful in her interview with Birmingham University for a S&LT apprenticeship. Maplewell Hall School has never had a therapist apprentice, so this is exciting news. We look forward to working with Hope and Birmingham University over the next 4 years!

COMPASS welcomes Stephanie Webster our new S&LTA and Zoe Holmes-Barr our new OTA. Both have already kickstarted sessions in Social Communication and Fine/Gross Motor Skills, and the students are thoroughly enjoying these sessions. We also welcome Miranda Bray our new Music Therapist whom has a full timetable already, with many more young adults on her waiting list.

COMPASS kickstarted their pastoral support within 10 days of the students starting back from the summer. Over 200 students accessed a variety of sessions from ELSA and Phonological Awareness to Social Communication and Sensory Integration. COMPASS are hoping to beat last year's total of 878 sessions.

### Moving Together:

Maplewell hall dance academy have been enjoying learning routines with a different style each week. Week 1 we did a musical theatre Matilda routine and week 2 we performed a Bollywood style routine dressed for the attire.



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#### KEY DATES

Y7 & Y8 Art Homework  
Due Date

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023

2

#### KEY DATES

Half Term Break

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Friday  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

3

#### KEY DATES

Staff Training Day

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
2023

### Main Site Homework Club:

Let My Mrs. Riddle

Homework Club

Tuesdays  
Wednesdays  
Thursdays

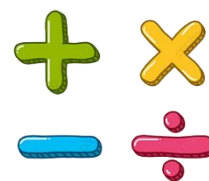
All year groups  
WELCOME

Room 16  
1:05 - 2:05

Come and join us

**Maths:**

The Maths Department would like to thank all students, parents and carers for their enthusiasm as we've rolled out Sparx Maths this last week. All classes have now been introduced to Sparx, and homework tasks are being set. Students have risen to the challenge with many not only completing their homework, but taking on the XP Boost in order to launch themselves into the top spots on the leaderboard! Well done and keep up the hard work! Certificates will start to be issued to students from next week.



**Macmillan Cancer Support**

Please see the Posters below for information. If you have any questions please contact Nicky Goodwin

**It's time for a Macmillan Coffee Morning and you're invited**

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer.

Place: Maplewell Hall & Post 16  
 Date: Friday 29th September  
 Time: 10am - 12pm  
 Contact: Nicky Goodwin



When: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

Suggested donation: £1



Simply scan this QR code with your phone to donate to your host's Coffee Morning. It's easy, quick and secure. Thank you.

Place your QR code sticker here.



**Food Tech:**

Our year 7's have been practicing their new techniques in Food Technology to make these amazing healthy, rainbow coloured fruit salads!



**Maplewell Careers:**

At Maplewell, it is important to us that our definition of Careers is inclusive and acknowledges that full-time, paid employment is not a realistic goal for all our students, and so at Maplewell, Careers is defined as Preparing for Adulthood. Families can find lots of information and resources on the Maplewell Careers website to help them make decisions about next steps, Further and Higher Education, Specialist Providers, The World of Work, Experiences of Work and Employment, by going to: <https://www.maplewell.leics.sch.uk/careers/> or by going to the school website and clicking on 'Pastoral' and then 'Careers'. Research shows that parents have the biggest influence on young people's career choices, so visit the school website to make sure you are as informed as you can be about their career choices and how best to prepare them for adulthood.



MAPLEWELL  
 HALL SCHOOL

## France Trip 2023

Our year 10 and 11 adventure to Paris began on a dark morning in September...we met at school at 4.30am and set off for the Channel Tunnel. 13 hours and quite a lot of snacks later, we arrived in sunny Paris! The PGL site was beautiful and after quickly unpacking we explored the site and had our first experience of French food.

After more sleep than anyone was expecting, we spent Tuesday morning at the Château de Grande Romaine taking part in team building challenges, buggy building and tag archery, (which is basically an excuse to shoot each other with foam arrows). In the afternoon we visited Montmartre, climbed over 200 steps at the Sacre Coeur and first met Matthew 'MAP' Moose!

Wednesday was a very exciting day, we spent it sightseeing in Paris. If 200 steps felt a lot on Tuesday, we were really tested by the 674 steps we climbed to the second floor of The Eiffel Tower. The views were amazing, and so were the baguettes that we'd made ourselves for lunch. We then explored more of the sights of Paris from a river boat, followed by an evening swim back at the center. The food was great, and on Wednesday evening students even had the chance to try garlic snails! We then packed our cases and got a good sleep, ready for our final day in Paris.

On Thursday (or as we will now call it 'the longest day ever') we were lucky enough to spend the whole day at Disneyland Paris. As the queues were kind to us, we got on lots of different rides, and met lots of our favourite Disney characters. We rounded off a great day with an 'all you can eat' Tex Mex buffet, perfect before a very long journey home through the night.

We arrived back at school before 6am, and went home for a well deserved rest!

It was an amazing trip, full of fun and new experiences. The students were fantastic, we are very proud of them all.

I would like to thank the amazing staff - Miss Ladva - Mrs Durrands - Miss Colman - Mrs Smith - Miss Phillips - Mr Wright - Mr Dudeck. For helping and supporting on this trip. You helped students create memories that will last a life time.

