

Links Journal

Spring Term 2024



Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support over the recent months.

The Spring Term has been a very busy and short term. I hope you enjoy reading about all the activities the students have participated in.

The staff at Links Academy are dedicated and rigorous in their approach to the educational experiences that we deliver to all the students. I am thankful of the staff's commitment to the curriculum we offer meeting the needs of the young people.

Advanced Notice:

The school will re-open on Wednesday 17 April 2024, Monday 15 April 2024 being an Inset Day and Tuesday 16 April 2024 being a Student Parent Review Day. I trust by now your son/daughter's form tutor will have been in contact to arrange a meeting on that day.

The Year 11 Leavers Celebration will take place on Thursday 9 May 2024 at 11.30 am. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will finish at 12.30 pm with the BBQ for Year 11 and their parents/carers taking place in the afternoon.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful Easter/Spring break. I look forward to welcoming you all back at the start of the Summer Term.



Charlotte Brown, Head of School

Links Academy welcomes comments from parents/carers and families about any aspect of school life.

Please contact us via our email admin@linksacademy.herts.sch.uk

www.linksacademy.herts.sch.uk to view Ofsted reports, key dates, journals and school information

School Calendar

Term Ends

Thursday 28 March 2024

@ 12.30pm

Easter Break

29 March — 12 April
2024

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INSET DAY

Monday 15 April 2024

No Students in school

Student Parent Review Day

Tuesday 16 April 2024

Form Tutors will arrange a convenient time to meet with parents & students

Term Starts

Wednesday 17 April 2024

Half Term

27 May — 31 May 2024

Summer Term ends
on 19 July 2024 at
12.30 pm

Happy Easter
Everyone

Inclusion

A busy but successful term within the Inclusion Unit!

First and foremost, a big welcome to all the new students that have joined us this term. It has been a privilege supporting these students in developing an understanding of the way of Links and becoming settled before moving to our Hixberry site.

In English this term at Woollam, we have been continuing to focus on moving our late Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 children through their Functional Skills English qualification. By using real life examples such as match reports and current news topics relating to school holidays, we have generated a variety of written work such as persuasive emails and letters, leaflets, balanced arguments and reports. This has provided the students the chance to apply the relevant skills in a more interesting context to them, which has subsequently led to an improvement in the quality of the work completed. We have also welcomed two new students from outside the country and they have been working on tasks to improve their overall level of English using targeted tasks and online activities. A big 'well done' to all the students and their dedication to work this term.



Our budding young mathematicians have been busy developing their maths abilities further in order to get closer to achieving their Entry Level Certificate or Functional Skills qualification. We have covered a range of topics during our lessons this term, including fractions, decimals and percentages; bearings and reading maps, as well as finding measurements such as area and volume of 2d and 3d shapes. It has been great to see our students persevere through challenging tasks and develop their resilience to keep trying! Great work everyone!



Working hard in English and Maths, our students have also been working hard in other areas as well. Encouraging diverse learning opportunities, our students have had some wonderful opportunities this term to whip up some delicious meals in the kitchen, do



their part for their planet by planting trees on the school site, exploring the curious world of science with some interesting science experiments and getting creative through music production! We hope these are new experiences for the young people we support and provides great opportunities for them to broaden their view of the world.

We want to wish the students and their parents/carers a very safe and happy Easter break and we look forward to continuing on the great work once we return!

Mr T Holgate, Lead Inclusion Teacher and Inclusion Team

Secondary Outreach

The secondary Outreach Team have had another busy term, covering 25 schools across St Albans, Harpenden, Welwyn, Hatfield and Hertsmere, supporting students in their existing mainstream settings.

The Team of five, managed by Fiona Haynes, provide a pivotal role providing a service that supports schools in understanding and developing practical and creative strategies to enable students with social and emotional needs and challenging behaviour, to become more successful learners in school.

The Outreach Team work with school staff, parents/carers and the students to help: - To reengage disaffected students in their mainstream school - To support students on reintegration or managed moves - To engage and work with parents/careers in their child's educational provision. The Outreach Team use their knowledge and skills to provide practical interventions within mainstream settings and have a proven track record in successfully supporting and enabling schools to aid students with social, emotional and mental health needs to find practical, creative ways to meet the needs of the school and students alike.

The Team provide 1-1 support developed to suit the needs of the individual and Fiona Haynes and Tracy Backhouse have recently delivered bespoke group work sessions. The Team work collaboratively with their schools to help ensure a joined-up approach.

Welcome to the World

Outreach Worker Alex welcomed her second daughter to the world. Baby Elif was born on 29 February 2024 weighing 6lbs 3oz.

Delivering a baby on Leap Day is something special—in fact, it's the rarest birthday a person can have, since 29 February only comes around every four years!



10 fun facts about leap year Birthdays.

People born on Leap Day are called 'leaplings' or 'leapers'.

Leapers choose when to celebrate their birthday.

A February 29 baby has some famous company. Superman was born on leap Day!

A leapling can say they're 8 years old when they're really 32.

There's a special leap year cocktail for parents to enjoy.

Many leapers go 'all out' with celebrations.

Leaplings are said to Possess Unique Talents.

We didn't have a Leap Year until Julius Caesar decided we needed one.

There's Even a Leap Year Club - The Honor Society of Leap Year Day Babies is a club for people born on 29 February. More than 11.000 people worldwide are members.

Leap years bring the quirky tradition of women proposing to men, a practice said to originate from a deal between Saint Bridget and Saint Patrick in 5th century Ireland.

New Staff

Leanne Monaghan joined the Outreach Team this term. Leanne has previous experience in secondary schools but is now supporting our secondary schools. She has worked across a number of schools in the Trust and is now running her own case load.

Secondary Outreach

Pastoral Hub

Links Outreach Manager Fiona Haynes and Higher Level Outreach Worker Tracy Backhouse attended the second Pastoral Hub of this Academic year, hosted by Lisa Gibbons of Townsend school. Guest speakers included, Mamba Gym, The Hygiene Bank, Youth Talk, The Emotional and Mental Health Well-Being in education team (EMWiE) who spoke about Sandbox.

Mamba Gym

<http://www.mambagym.com/>

Alternative provision combining boxing, Brazilian Jujitsu, Thai boxing and MMS training for 11-16 year olds alongside Maths, English, Mentoring and Counselling. They run range of sessions for children and teenagers.



Hygiene Bank



The Hygiene Bank are a grassroots, people-powered charity and social movement, grounded in community. Our passion stems from the injustice that people may be unable to fully participate in society due to hygiene poverty. This is why we work to inspire social change.

The Hygiene Bank is aiming to tackle hygiene poverty by giving local people in need access to basic hygiene basics.

Toiletries are distributed to local schools giving essential toiletries to individuals and families living in hygiene poverty.

Youth Talk

Youth Talk provide free, confidential psychodynamic counselling for young people age 13-25 in St Albans and surrounding areas.

Since 1997 thousands of young people have trusted Youth Talk to help them. Young people face unprecedented demands, disruptions and uncertainties and the demand for their free, confidential counselling service has reached unprecedented and worrying new heights. As a result Youth Talk have launched a new strategy to respond to the significant challenges we are facing, which includes:

Vision

Every young person can talk to someone who can help with whatever's worrying them

Mission

To provide the best possible mental health support to young people in St Albans and surrounding areas

Values

We are open and accepting

We always give our best

We are stronger together

For more information, please visit: <https://youthtalk.org.uk/>



Secondary Outreach

Sandbox

The Sandbox is an NHS-funded service to support children and young people in Hertfordshire with their mental health and well-being.

In addition to providing NHS-funded support, The Sandbox is a central place for resources about common mental health issues, with information on how to access additional support or emergency services.

The Sandbox is for Children and Young People struggling with their mental health. This service is available for anyone registered with a GP in either South Staffordshire or Hertfordshire.

We are an online only service so are not suitable for certain more severe mental health issues or for people who are in crisis.

For more information, please visit: <https://sandbox.mindler.co.uk/>



WithYouth: part of the Herts Mind Network, WithYouth offers digital wellbeing services through one to one online and group support, and instant messaging.

Lumi Nova: a free, game-based app that uses gradual exposure and cognitive behavioural therapy to overcome anxieties, worries and fears. Age 7 to 12 years.



Herts Haven Cafés: these are a drop in space for young people aged 10 to 18 to access support for their emotional wellbeing.

Mrs Tracy Backhouse, Higher Level Outreach Worker

It has been a short but busy term at Cedars. This term, we bid farewell to two of our fantastic children. Although we are sad to see them go, we are incredibly proud of their achievements and wish them every success in their return to their schools. With our farewell, we also look forward to welcoming two new members to our class in the Summer Term. Children have been working hard in all areas of their learning, however we have also managed to find time to fit in a range of fun activities.



Throughout the week, children engage in a range of different lessons, completing lessons in the core subjects of Maths and English and engaging in a more practical topic lesson at the end of the day including: Gardening, PE, Art, Music and Food Tech. We also incorporate time for sensory input, phonics, Epic Reading, Maths games and of course some motivational activities. Our timetable this term can be seen below:

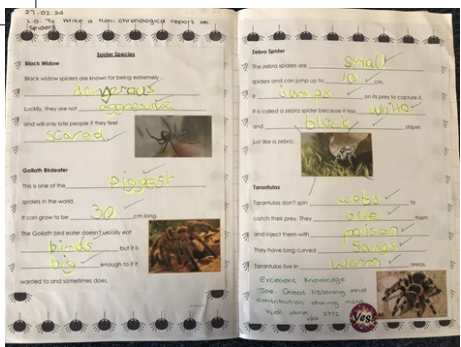
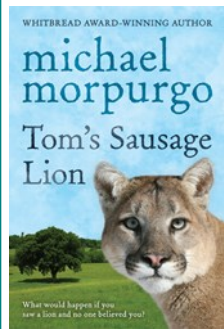


Maths games and of course some motivational activities. Our timetable this term can be seen below:

 welcome	 Washing hands	 Soft Start	 English	 Choosing
 Body Time	 Brain Break	 Phonics	 Break Time	 Snack time
 Epic Reading	 Maths	 Choosing	 Body Time	 Break Time
 Lunchtime	 Maths Games	 Topic	 Golden Time	 Home time

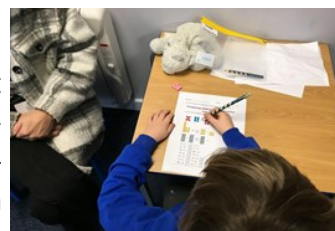
English

Each term, our English lessons are based around a book. This exposes children to a range of different texts and authors and focuses our writing around a theme. During the first half of the term, our lessons were based around *Cloudy With A Chance of Meatballs* and *Charlotte's Web*. Children thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the different characters of the texts and produced fantastic pieces of written work inspired by the books including a non-chronological report on spiders and their own story containing their own created Foodimal. During the second part of the term, lessons focused around Michael Morpurgo's book *Tom's Sausage Lion*. Once again, children engaged eagerly and offered their thoughts and perspectives around the text with insight. Children increased the quantity and quality of their written work producing texts such as friendly letters and playscripts.



Maths

In Maths, we use a range of resources to support our learning. We teach concrete, abstract, pictorial Maths ensuring that concepts are first taught through concrete resources such as unifix cubes or base ten before showing a concept through pictorial representation and finally applying the concept in the abstract through calculations. Throughout the term, we have covered various topics, including, number and place value, addition, subtraction and skip counting.



Topic

Throughout the term, children have engaged in various topic lessons. These lessons aim to be practical in nature in order to encourage enjoyment for learning and to provide children with certain life skills that can be implemented outside of the classroom. Throughout these lessons, children participate in class discussions, relating the topic being discussed to many of their personal experiences, sharing stories and facts openly and confidently. Activities that have been covered include Sushi Making and Food Art in Food tech, preparing a piece of land during Gardening. Rhythm making using the Djembe drum and glockenspiel in Music and mixing primary colours to create the secondary and tertiary colours on the colour wheel in Art.



Extra Curricular Activities

With so much learning taking place, we have also managed to squeeze in a range of fun activities. We have had Mr Bunn - our Police Community Support Officer- lead weekly Mini Police sessions where the children were given their own Mini Police uniforms to wear and participated in a range of educational activities including going out onto the road to learn about road safety, attempting the 'Bleep Test' and learning about environmental crime looking at littering and the time it takes various materials to decompose. All of our sessions were incredibly interactive and children even had the opportunity to try on various items of PCSO's uniform including metal studded boots and padded vest. We also had a ceremonial ending to our programme where each child received a certificate for their participation in the programme.





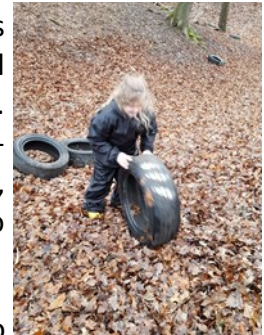
Cedars News



Throughout the term, children have received weekly **football sessions** from St Albans City Football coaches. These sessions have taught children a range of skills including teamwork, turn taking, perseverance and of course gross motor skills. We have seen improvement in various aspects and are proud of the engagement the children have demonstrated. We ended our sessions with a Cedars match which identified some incredibly talented children. Children have enjoyed being outdoors and having the time to run off their energy in a constructive and directed manner.



In addition to this, children completed a six week programme at **Forest School**. Children truly thrived at these sessions and would eagerly engage in conversations around nature, sharing facts and stories openly with the adults. They would usually return to school head to toe in mud, which did not phase them in the slightest. Throughout their time, they took part in various outdoor activities, from making fires to abseiling down hills. For many, this was the highlight of their week and an opportunity to learn beyond the classroom walls.



On the 7 March 2024, we celebrated **World Book Day**. Due to our literary text, our theme for the day was Charlotte's Web. Children participated enthusiastically in the day and arrived in fantastic costumes including Templeton, Charlotte and farmers.

Children ended the term with a visit to **Standalone Farm**. During the visit, children were able to meet a variety of different animals, including a range of different pig species, alpacas, cows, horses, sheep and chickens. Children were lucky enough to be able to feed the goats by hand and stroke many of the animals. Children enjoyed their picnic lunches before having some free time to play on the mini tractors and then boarding the minibus, where we took six very tired children back to Cedars.



We have had an incredible term filled with learning, fun and laughter and look forward to another exciting term ahead.

Miss R Gray, Primary Support Teacher

Food Technology

This half-term has been outstanding in the Food Technology Department. Students have been cooking a wide variety of dishes. The standout has been the **Year 11 cooking exams**; we have seen some high level of skill used throughout each of the meals served. The flavours and presentation of these dishes were amazing and each student should be proud of themselves.

Charlie—Y11 student

Chorizo pasta with garlic bread and Apple Crumble with custard



Rhys—Y11 student

Steak, peppercorn sauce, wedges and grilled vegetables. Banoffee pie



Coco—Y11 student

Carbonara served with cheesy garlic bread. Triple chocolate brownies



Food Technology

Jayden—Y11 student

Steak, peppercorn sauce, wedges and corn on the cob. Home-made vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce



Taylah A—Y11 student

Spicy beef tacos, served with spiced rice and home-made salsa. Mixed fruit smoothie bowl, with fruit, muesli and chocolate



Mujahid—Y11 student

Succulent tandoori chicken skewers, served with chips and coleslaw. Gulab Jamun, served with vanilla ice cream and cardamom syrup



Mr S Bailey, Teacher of Business/Public Services & Hospitality

CAREERS



Year 11 had a taster of what the next step in their careers would be like with a visit from The Department for Works and Pensions. Each student had an interview with a panel of 3 people and were quizzed with various questions that they may face in future, similar scenarios. Although it was out of their comfort zone and caused a lot of nervous feelings, the students all said how useful it had been. It was great to see them encouraging each other to go in because 'it's not that deep'. The students received some great tips and things to work on so that they can feel more prepared for when the time comes and they step into a 'real' interview.

Two students this term have been on work experience to Robert Dyas and Body Limit. The feedback has been extremely positive stating the students have been polite to customers, completing all tasks asked of them and a pleasure to have working for them.

Well done to these two students and thank you to the businesses for hosting them.

Mr M Broadbridge, Teacher of PE

ECO—School

This week, as part of the annual 'Keep Britain Tidy' scheme, students at Links Academy, St Albans have been taking part in litter picks along the



Alban Way and in the Highfield Park area. The involvement in this initiative is part of a wider push for the Academy to gain Eco-School accreditation. Head of School Charlotte Brown notes that 'the litter pick is just part of a huge range of activities promoted and chosen by our students to improve the school environment and to play a part as active citizens positively impacting their communities and the environment'. The students have also been busy planting bulbs, growing food used for the students' lunches and improving the

school grounds whilst also making plans for other activities like 'no mow May', the planting of bee and butterfly friendly meadows and even stewarding their own bee colonies on-site.



Executive Headteacher David Allen said that "these initiatives sit alongside our deep commitment to 'Character Education' and creating socially aware and socially active citizens of the future. We all have to do our bit for the environment but it is wonderful to see our pupils going above and beyond with events like those witnessed this week."

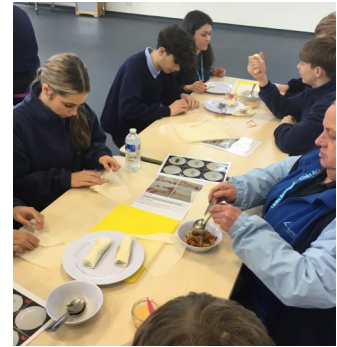


Mr Jon Buckland, Assistant Headteacher

Chinese New Year Celebrations



On 7 February 2024 the students and staff at Hixberry decided to join together to cook themselves some Chinese spring rolls to celebrate the Chinese New Year. All of the students sat with the staff as assistants to manufacture their lunches. It was a roaring success and enjoyed by everyone.



Mrs J Heagren, Teacher of D&T & Construction

World Book Day—7 March 2024



This year our theme was Charlotte's Web in the PSB and Spies and Detectives for the KS3 and KS4 students. During the normal school day lessons had activities around these themes and staff dressed up for the occasion. Students looked at their own finger prints and learnt how they are individual to each person and used in crime investigations. All students received a free reading book from the National Book Tokens who sponsored the event.

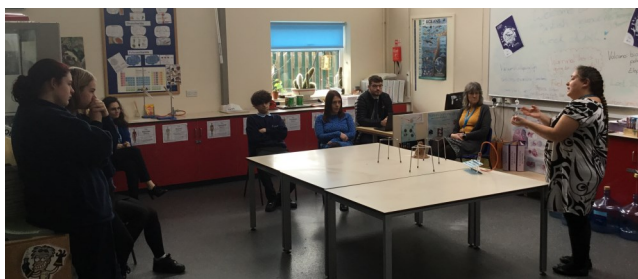


Enjoy reading for pleasure!



Mrs C Brown, Head of School

Science Week



This year's British Science week theme was 'Time'. So with that in mind we looked at the different rates in which chemical reactions happen. Mrs Trotman being naughty and walking away from a reaction stating it was over, when minutes later there was a big bang sound, had some teachers worried about their hearts. This was followed by chemical volcano, whoosh bottles, screaming jelly babies and finally setting fire to Mrs Trotman.....not really, just the



bubbles in her hand. It was a truly unforgettable experience in Science with memories made.



Mrs Gina Trotman, Teacher of Science

The Galaxy Laser Tag Trip

With three students in tow Mr Broadbridge and I embarked on an energy fuelled rewards trip to Laser Tag at the Galaxy centre in Luton on 15 February 2024. You could feel the competitive energy as we went into each of our three games, two were a free for all event where it was every man for himself. The students used stealth and fast reactions to target and attack. I must admit I was on a back foot for the entire trip, out skilled and targeted at every



turn. However, Mr Broadbridge gave the students more of a challenge setting himself up in a great location to allow maximum visibility while remaining relatively hidden from long range shots. The scores reflected this with only one of the students ranking first place. Overall, this was a great trip with great students.

Miss J Coulson, Teacher of Maths/Science/Child Care

Trip to Bayfordbury Observatory

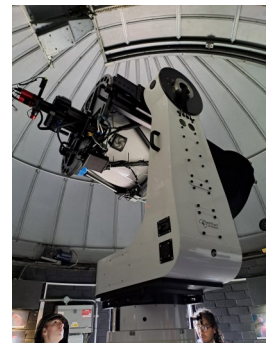


Hertfordshire University allowed us the opportunity to explore space through a well organised inspirational trip on 13 March 2024.

Our host Tilly gave us an introductory talk about astrology and the opportunities for working in the field. Students



then engaged in sharing their knowledge and asking about the beautiful images of galaxies, nebulas, and constellations, before we went into the planetarium for a journey into space and how the telescopes at the university are used to research and explore it. Finally, we had the opportunity to go inside two of the observatories, to see how the oldest and newest of the telescopes work. Students listened and explored the area with respect, each leaving with a better understanding of space its vastness.



Miss J Coulson, Teacher of Maths/Science/Child Care

HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

It seems like eons ago now, but at the very start of term, we ushered in **Dry January**. For those unfamiliar with the national event, this is an annual opportunity for those adults who drink alcohol to resist the ‘giggle juice’ for a whole month.



Not only does this commitment demonstrate resilience, it also shows students that abstinence has multiple benefits. After 31 days without the booze, our **Dry January Champions** experienced a range of positive effects – from increased energy levels to decreased blood pressure, and from improved sleeping to a reduced waistline.



Some of us found it more challenging than others but ultimately all five staff pushed through to the finish line, drink-free!

Pats on the back and a flavorsome mocktail for: Mr Allen, Mr Buckland, Miss Abraham, Miss Trotman, and Mr Boxer.



Following on from last term’s advice around vaping and changes in law, this winter saw two local secondary schools taking up the HLL’s offer of parents’ evenings.

‘Vaping and Parenting Tips’ workshops ran in Beaumont and Sandringham, both of which were well attended and evaluated by parents.



Pick an appropriate time

If you start a discussion just as your child is going out the door to meet friends, before bed, before school, or in the middle of an argument about other things, it can lead to conflict.

Make it an ongoing conversation

You’re more likely to have a greater impact on your child’s decisions about drinking and drug use if you have a number of chats. A one-off is unlikely to work.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

Call it out

Find opportunities to make topical links and call out any poor decision-making you see, e.g. during film or TV storylines, celebrity scandals involving drink/drugs, or even stories about family or friends. Ask: “What do you think about that situation? What do you think about their decision?”



Be conscious of ‘othering’

Note the media bias or language used to describe drug users – often in very negative terms. Remember we are all drug users of one kind or another!

Mind your language

Be aware of what you say about vaping, drugs or alcohol in children’s presence, e.g. “*What a day I’ve had! I need a drink!*”

Honesty can be the best policy

If your child asks about your own vaping or alcohol consumption, help them understand. Address the risks. Perhaps explain a personal example - What happened? What did you learn from this? What might you have done differently?



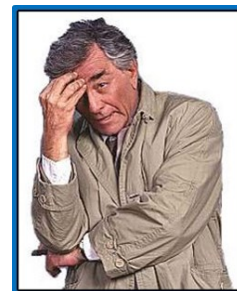
Parents have influence

Your child is likely to come to you first for information and advice, so you can help shape their attitudes and behaviour towards drugs or alcohol by reinforcing responsible drinking and healthy decision-making.

Ask curious questions

What do they know already? Where have they heard about it? Why are they asking you? Have they been offered drugs? Are they at risk of exploitation? What is their opinion?

You know your child best. Are they mentally mature enough to process this information? Is it age appropriate?



Set rules & boundaries

There need to be clear rules and sanctions in place for breaking the rules. Rules should be discussed and agreed between you. Sanctions must be followed through. Be consistent.



Things will go wrong

We all make mistakes!

Be honest about your disappointment – but emphasize you still love them regardless.

Mr R Boxer, Healthy Lifestyles Lead

Go Karting Rewards Trip



This term's Rewards Trip was at Rye House Go Karting. Our students did us proud as they followed all the safety briefing instruction and looked the part in their racing gear. The first few laps were tame as they were getting used to their cars but by lap seven they obviously were getting brave as the teachers had to witness their car spinning out across the track. Just when we started to relax, they were then getting competitive and we witnessed overtaking manoeuvres only seen on Top Gear. Lord help us when these lot get their drivers' licence!!



The trip back was full of excited conversation as we recapped all our incidents but the most laughs was when one of our students found a deep puddle to drive through!!! All three layers of tracky bottoms were soaked. We all agreed we can't wait to go again next year.

Mrs Gina Trotman, Teacher of Science

Mock Exams

Well done to all Year 11 students for their commitment and efforts to their Mock Exams!

You all did well with your time keeping in the mornings. Please ensure this continues. The official start time for morning exams is **9 am** and afternoon exams is **1.30 pm**.

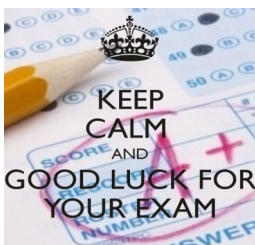
Please take the opportunity over the Easter break to continue with your revision. Your exams start in May!



Mrs C Brown, Head of School

Public Examination dates

DAY	DATE	QUALIFICATION	SUBJECT	TITLE	AM/PM	DURATION
Friday	10/5/2024	AQA GCSE	Biology	Paper 1	AM	1h 45
Tuesday	14/5/2024	Edexcel BTEC	Travel and Tourism	The UK Travel and Tourism Sector	AM	1h 15
Tuesday	14/5/2024	Edexcel BTEC	Hospitality	Introducing the Hospitality Industry	PM	1h 15
Wednesday	15/5/2024	Pearson GCSE	History	Crime and Punishment	AM	1h 15
Thursday	16/5/2024	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 1	AM	1h 30
Tuesday	21/5/2024	Edexcel BTEC	Public Services	The Role and Work of the Public Services	AM	1h
Thursday	23/5/2024	AQA GCSE	English Language	Paper 1	AM	1h 45
Monday	3/6/2024	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 2	AM	1h 30
Tuesday	4/6/2024	Pearson GCSE	History	Superpowers and Elizabeth	PM	1h 45
Thursday	6/6/2024	AQA GCSE	English Language	Paper 2	AM	1h 45
Friday	7/6/2024	AQA GCSE	Biology	Paper 2	PM	1h 45
Monday	10/6/2024	AQA GCSE	Maths	Paper 3	AM	1h 30
Tuesday	11/6/2024	Pearson GCSE	History	Weimar and Nazi Germany	PM	1h 20
Wednesday	12/6/2024	AQA GCSE	Polish	Listening and Reading	PM	1h 45
Tuesday	18/6/2024	AQA GCSE	Polish	Writing	PM	1h 15



Is my child too ill for school?

You may have noticed or heard in recent months an advert about school attendance either on the radio, TV or through social media.

Strange, you may think, an advert about attending school!

In fact, this is a major national drive from the Department of Education to improve school attendance and part of this is through a national communications campaign on the importance of attendance under the strapline **'Moments Matter, Attendance Counts'**.

Designed to target parents and carers, the campaign outlines the importance of attendance for attainment, wellbeing and development as well as signposting to advice and further support.

It's clear that pupil attendance to schools is continuing to recover post pandemic, which is still having an impact on pupil absences in schools and by tackling persistent absence, will help drive up attendance in schools.

Improving attendance is key to boosting attainment and the evidence supports this, but let's be clear attending school every day isn't just about exam results. Education and the social connection that comes with going to school can also have a positive impact on mental health and the wellbeing of young people.

At Links Academy we are often met with students reluctant to come to school for a variety of reasons but helping students to overcome the barriers they face is an important part of personal development along their school journey.

A regularly seen avoidance strategy from students, would be relating to their health and not feeling well enough to attend school and some days it is really difficult to get up and come to school especially if you're not feeling 100%.

For parents and carers of any school aged children, it's sometimes difficult to make the decision as to whether or not to send a child to school. So how do you decide?

If you're not sure, check first on NHS website and the Public Health Agency have provided a quick go-to guide.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/do-i-need-keep-my-child-school-english-and-translations>

Always remember, if you do keep your child at home through illness and then they make a marvelous recovery part-way through the day, they can always come into school for the afternoon session.



Moments in school do matter.

Mrs S Porritt, Attendance Officer

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

"THIS MORNING, SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT SCHOOL... BUT LOOK AT HER NOW!"



MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.



HM Government

Head to the Education Hub to find out more.





CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience



Camping at Church Farm

At Church Farm Ardeley we have very large camping fields which offer a wonderful opportunity for larger groups of families to book school class camping trips as well as individual family stays.

Accommodation includes the hire of bell tents and cabins (with or without 'glamping' options), as well as multiple woods and fields to pitch your own tents. All large groups are allocated roped private areas so that they can all camp together.

We offer a variety of options to enhance your stay: camp fire packs, BBQ hire, straw bales, and delicious food that can be ordered in advance from our website or purchased from our on-site farm shop. There is also a pub and restaurant (The Jolly Waggoner) as well as our café for the all-important teas, coffees and bacon rolls.

Camping at the farm also includes free farm passes (usually £6.95pp per day) for the duration of your stay. Get to know the animals, explore our woodland play area, follow the farm trail, and find out about growing and horticulture in our polytunnels and kitchen garden. And there are plenty of beautiful family walks in the peaceful, rolling Hertfordshire countryside.

Additional bookable activities include Egg Collecting, Goat Walking, Fairy Trail, Animal Feeding and (from Feb-April) Lamb Bottle Feeding.



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HAVE A LOVELY EASTER BREAK EVERYONE!!!



