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by Dr Rautenburg

Last term, Wootton Park School has again supported the important work of Children in Need. The charity recognises that following several years of the challenges of the pandemic, this year families face further uncertainty over the winter months.

In support of the great SPOTactular event, Wootton Park Learners were given the option of swapping an item of their uniform for something spotty.

We raised £808.00 for Children in Need and thank the Wootton Park family for your kindness and generosity!



WELL DONE!

A big Wootton Park well done to Aidan in Year 8 for winning the U14's Northamptonshire Schools Chess Association tournament!

This win has now secured Aidan's place in the next stage of the competition!



FARADAY CHALLENGE

by Mrs Johnstone

On 18-th January, our School hosted the national Faraday challenge competition. 24 of our Year 8 learners have taken part in the competition, alongside two teams of year 8 scientists from Caroline Chisholm school.

The learners competed in teams of six and had to work together to design an engineering project, budget to buy parts, build the project and bring it to life and present their project to an audience. Our learners had a fun day of learning and one of our teams was awarded the first prize. The winning team won £10 vouchers for each participant. All the participants were awarded diplomas and a bag of prizes.

Our winning team scored 87 points out of a possible 100 and is now in the top five in leader-board, with a good chance to qualify for the Finals.

The organisers commented on the outstanding level of all the entrant teams, it was unprecedented that 3 teams out of 6 scored above 80 marks. Also unprecedented, was that one of our teams built a three-wheels' vehicle that was fully functioning.

The most important outcome was that the learners learnt a lot and worked together as teams in projecting, building and presenting.



BOOK OF THE MONTH

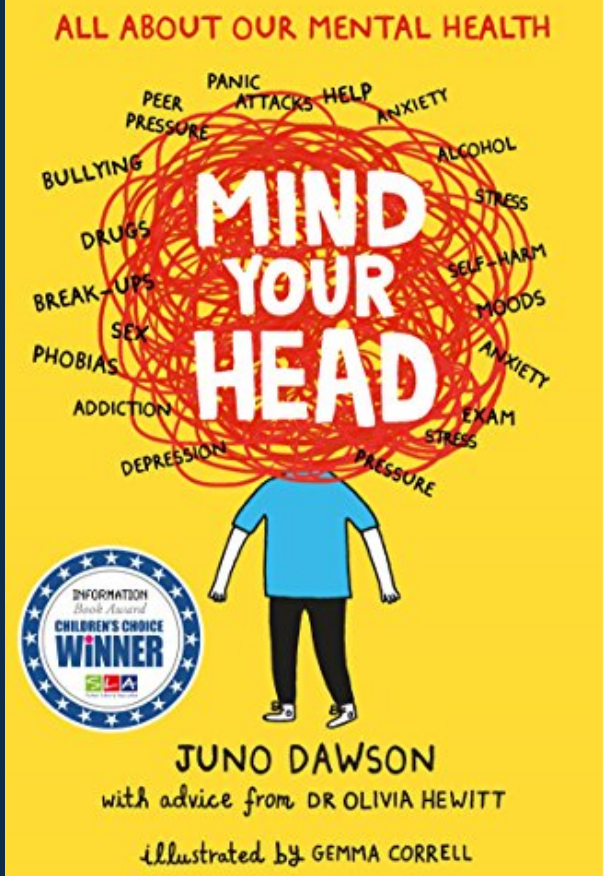
by Mrs Jones & Mrs Collard

Mind Your Head

We all have a mind, so we all need to take care of our mental health as much as we need to take care of our physical health. And the first step is being able to talk about our mental health. Juno Dawson leads the way with this frank, factual and funny book, with added information and support from clinical psychologist Dr Olivia Hewitt.

Covering topics from anxiety and depression to addiction, self-harm and personality disorders, Juno and Olivia talk clearly and supportively about a range of issues facing young people's mental health - whether fleeting or long-term - and how to manage them. With real-life stories from young people around the world and witty illustrations from Gemma Correll.

Aimed at older children/young adults and ties in nicely with Children's mental health week (6th-12th Feb).



ASPIRATION SQUAD PROJECT – ORIENTEERING & SHELTER BUILDING

by Mrs Clarke

A group of year 5/6 learners were selected at the start of the year to take part in a “Student Aspiration Squad” Project being organised by Northamptonshire Sport. The purpose of the project is to develop confidence and aspirations ahead of transition to secondary school through the power of sport.

The group are taking part in a different activity each term. This term they went to Irchester Country Park to take part in Orienteering and Shelter building. They were pushed out of their comfort zone as they were challenged to work in teams with children from other schools. It was amazing to see how their confidence grew over the course of the afternoon. They are already looking forward to meeting up again next term, when they get to go trampolining!



MOVEMBER

by Mr Morgan

In November last year several members of our teaching staff took part in Movember. Movember is an opportunity to spread awareness and to raise some money for the much required support and research of Prostate Cancer. However Movember also supports in more ways, including providing support on men's mental health and suicide prevention. A big well done to everyone who participated and raised a total of £308!



THE ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

by Mr Williams

The Arkwright Engineering Award is an engineering award given to engineering students within the United Kingdom and Channel Islands. It has been running since 1991 and, as part of The Smallpeice Trust, has awarded over 6,000 scholarships to date, granting almost 300 Scholarships Nationally this year at a special ceremony at the IET in London.

Mia in Year 12 was one of those lucky learners to achieve this award, which will support Mia with a £600 fund and tools and experience to close the skills gap and meet industry requirements.

"The Arkwright Scholarship is an amazing achievement for Mia. The mentorship program will allow Mia to get real life experiences and gain an insight into the industry...."

"I would encourage any Year 11 D&T learner, who has a passion for STEM to apply for this amazing opportunity!" P Williams.

"Achieving the Arkwright scholarship has been a great experience right from the beginning, the sheer amount of opportunities available for those successful is unbelievable and are already coming to great use for me. Although the entire process was extremely challenging it was also very rewarding and I strongly encourage anyone interested in a future career in engineering to take the time to apply. From what I've experienced in my short time as a scholar, the benefits are going to be of great help and I can't wait to see what else is to come." Mia Year 12

A huge Wootton Park well done Mia!



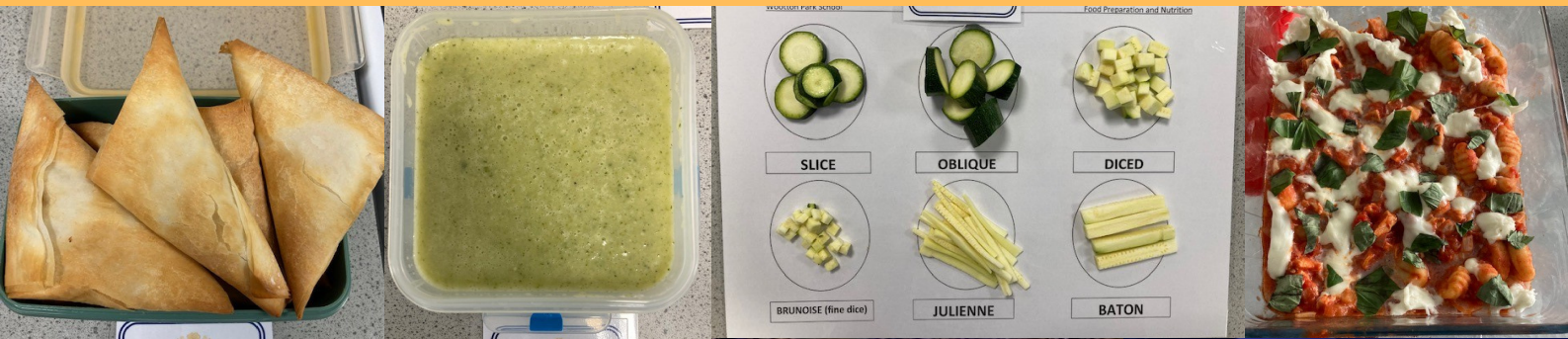
ARKWRIGHT
ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS
part of The Smallpeice Trust

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

by Mrs Mutch

It was been wonderful to see our first ever cohort of GCSE learners begin their studies with such enthusiasm this term. We have been cooking every week, developing key practical skills and gaining confidence in the kitchen. Some of their dishes can be seen below.

Well done Year 10!



CHILDREN IN NEED

by Miss Percival

A big well done to Sophie in year 7 for completing her 5km walk to promote awareness for Children in Need in with a massive total of £130 raised, congratulations Sophie!



COMMUNITY ORCHARD PROJECT

by Mrs Clarke

A team of year 7 learners had a great time helping to set up a community orchard in East Hunsbury. The project has been coordinated by East Hunsbury Parish Council and is based on the Grangewood Park. The learners worked with a woodland expert and learnt lot of information about trees and what they need to thrive.

They worked in small groups to dig a hole, plant a fruit tree with compost and add a structure around it to provide protection. We were the first group to attend the site and start the planting, but a range of other schools and community groups will also be going to add more trees to the area. The learners are excited to return to the orchard in the summer to see how they are getting on, and see if there is any fruit ready for picking.



CROSS COUNTRY

by Mrs Clarke

On Saturday 21st January, a number of our learners from both our primary and secondary phases competed in the County Cross Country Championships at Abington Park. We are so proud of every single one of them! Special mention to Orla who came 3rd in her race. Thank you to parents and carers that sent us in photos.

The learners that competed are:

- Year 5 – Oscar & Liam
- Year 6 – George, Thomas & Ethan
- Year 9 – Orla & Sylvia
- Year 12 – Caitlin



PRIMARY SPORT

by Mrs Clarke

This term has seen Wootton Park enter learners into a range of primary sports competitions. We are really proud of all the learners that represented the school in one of these events, and are looking forward more competitions next term!

- KS2 Boccia – The team consisted of learners from years 3, 4, 5 and 6. They did brilliantly and showed amazing team work and determination. For most of these learners it was their first experience of Boccia and they loved learning a new sport. Well done!
- KS1 New Age Kurling – We took a team of year 1/2 learners to a New Age Kurling competition at the end of January. New Age Kurling is an adapted version of the Curling sport usually done on ice. The learners were all brand new to the sport and really enjoyed going to the competition. There were 11 teams competing and our team finished in 2nd position. What an amazing achievement!
- Year 5/6 Netball – The year 5/6 learners that attend our afterschool netball club have been working really hard this academic year to develop their skills. They have a number of tournaments coming up over the next few months, so we arranged for some of them to have a friendly fixture against another local primary school. It was a great opportunity for the team to experience a game in a competitive environment. They did really well and learnt loads, and they have now returned to training with extra drive to improve ahead of their coming competitions.



SIXTH FORM UPDATE

by Mrs Clarke

UCAS

Over 90% of our Y13 students have now submitted applications to university!

Special mention must go to Lucia and Pippa – who have received our first Oxbridge offers! We hope to see Lucia off to Oxford to read Law with Spanish Law and Pippa to Cambridge reading Natural Sciences.

We have had success at securing offers from excellent universities – including the prestigious Russell Group – with offers from Liverpool, Nottingham, Newcastle, Queen Mary, Manchester, Sheffield, Warwick, Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff and many others. We have had offers for degrees in subjects ranging from Law and Medicine, to Physiotherapy, Psychology, Film Production, Fashion Marketing, Geography, Computer Science, Sport & Physical Education, Primary Education, Fine Art and Nursing to name just a selection. We are so pleased with the range of courses our first sixth formers are getting offers to be able to pursue!

We have also had a great response from local universities, including the ever helpful and supportive University of Northampton – who will offer more support with advice for student finance in the coming months. We have been blown away by the offers coming flooding in, showing our strong support and guidance has paid dividends – on to that last push now to make it all a reality!! 85% of our applicants have already gained at least one offer, only three days after the UCAS equal consideration deadline.

We are continuing to help keep all options open (with students also looking at apprenticeships in Design, the Police, Paramedics, Retail and Fire Service), and our apprenticeship workshops, mock interviews and careers guidance are still running apace – and Mr Kilcoyne, Dr Rautenberg, Miss MacDougall, Mrs Adabale & Miss Watts are all happy to help with any queries you may have. Go for it Y13!

Northampton Guardians

We had Northampton Guardians in school on Friday 20th January working with our Sixth Formers. They delivered an assembly about keeping safe on a night out. Students then had the opportunity to look around the SNO van (safer nights out) which is based in the town centre every Friday and Saturday night, offering support to vulnerable people - support varies from water bottles and phone chargers to first aid and general safety advice.

Students thoroughly enjoyed speaking with the team and asking lots of questions. Thank you Northampton Guardians for everything you do!

Sixth Form Applications

We have been blown away by the number of applications that we have received from people wanting to join our Sixth Form next academic year, both from our own internal year 11 learners and from other external applicants. Now that our initial deadline has passed (28th January) we are reviewing all applications and will be in touch with everyone over the next couple of weeks.

Please note, we are still accepting late applications but places will be prioritised to those that applied before the deadline first.

To apply for a place in our Sixth Form, please follow this link to the online portal.

<https://woottonparkschool.applicaa.com/4>

For further information please contact our Sixth Form team on sixthform@woottonparkschool.org.uk.



EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

We have had an unbelievable amount of support and generosity regarding our fundraising efforts for the devastating earthquakes that have recently hit Turkey and Syria killing thousands of people and injuring many more.

So far today we have raised an amazing £1528 which is increasing by the hour! These funds will go to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) a Turkey - Syria Earthquake Appeal! A very big thank you for all that have donated already, you can still make a contribution to this cause via ParentPay. We will confirm the final total after the half term break.

WELLBEING & SAFEGUARDING

by Mr Cowdell

If you have any safeguarding concerns over the February break please contact a member of the Safeguarding Team on the following numbers:

07857 801573

07857 801568

Furthermore, members of staff from the wellbeing team will be on-site during the half term and will be available for learner drop-ins between 10am-11am each day.

