

The Wolfreton Way Newsletter

Issue 8

Just two weeks ago we welcomed students back after Christmas, exchanging Happy New Years and hearing all their updates. Today it is incredibly pleasing to be reflecting on the strong start everyone has made. Despite the very cold spell we have packed in plenty of activities – recruiting student councillors, working with Years 11 and 13 as they step up revision preparations and of course, restarting the extra-curricular programme. I hope you enjoy reading through the latest issue of The Wolfreton Way Newsletter. Have an enjoyable weekend.



Over the past two weeks, we have been electing our Year 7 tutor representatives and student councillors. Each tutor group across the school has two student representatives who represent their tutor group views. Two of the tutor representatives in each year group are elected to sit on the full student council which meets with the Senior Leadership Team. Students in Years 8-11 were elected last academic year and already have shown their impact campaigning for increased non-uniform days, participating in staff interviews and working with our catering company to review the break and lunch time food options.

On Tuesday of this week 6 of the 18 Year 7 tutor representatives put their names forward to stand for the Student Council. Each student gave a speech in assembly to the entire Year 7 student body showing huge levels of confidence and excellent communication skills – a huge congratulations to all who stood. On Wednesday and Thursday, all students in Year 7 took part in a formal secret ballot to determine their representatives.

We are pleased to announce that Stanley and Freya were elected for Year 7.

They will join our Year 8-11 representatives this year as part of the full student council. The Year group representatives are:

Year 8 – Roxy and Alex
Year 9 – Penny and Lewis
Year 10 – Zac and Hannah
Year 11 – Sophie and Tariq

This week, our student councillors in Years 8-11 met with Mrs Scaife, our Careers Leader, and Year 10 students Rebecca and Grace to share their views of Careers provision in the East Riding. Mrs Scaife, Rebecca and Grace will attend a Careers Hub Meeting on the 21 January to share the views of Wolfreton students with the East Riding Careers Hub to improve provisions across the county moving forward.

Student Council Democracy in Action



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TCAT Year 11 Success Event

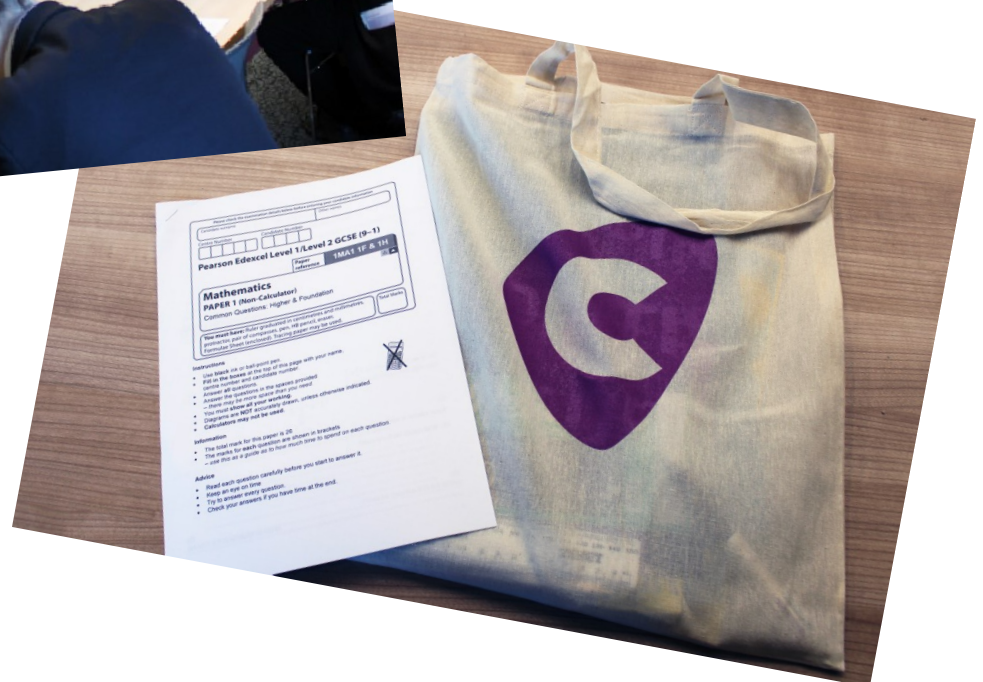
Some of Wolfreton's Year 11 students had the opportunity to attend a day of specialist GCSE Maths and English sessions held at Hull University. The event, organised by our Trust and aimed to provide targeted support for students as they prepare for their upcoming GCSEs.

Although Hull University served as the venue, the sessions were expertly delivered by TCAT's own experienced subject staff. This collaborative effort ensured that students received high-quality sessions in a setting designed to inspire and motivate them.

The day focused on key topics in Maths and English, with workshops tailored to address common challenges and boost exam confidence. Students engaged in interactive activities, practical problem-solving tasks, and revision techniques designed to strengthen their understanding of core concepts.

The event also allowed students to experience the inspiring atmosphere of a university campus, sparking aspirations for higher education and future success.

We are all committed to supporting students in achieving their academic potential and providing opportunities to excel. The success of this day highlights the value of collaboration between schools and higher education institutions in empowering young people.



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A Heartwarming Performance at Willersley Care Home

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Miss Morris and Mr Aygun who organised for some of our talented school choir members to visit Willersley Care Home and share their music with the residents. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved!

The students not only had the opportunity to showcase their singing talents but also enjoyed engaging with the residents, sharing stories, and spreading festive cheer.

Many of the students expressed how much they enjoyed the visit and have already asked when they can return to connect with the community again.

It was truly a special moment that brought together the joy of music and the spirit of giving. Thank you to the teachers for making this possible, and to everyone involved for making it such a meaningful occasion!

We look forward to more opportunities to spread joy and continue fostering strong ties within our community.

Christmas Quiz Success!



This year's Advanced Mathematics Support Programme KS3 Christmas Quiz was a huge hit, with over 2,000 students participating in 682 teams. We're proud to announce that Wolfreton achieved the highest average score, with every team answering 21 or more questions correctly.

Congratulations to all who took part!

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Sport



Year 11 Football Team

What a performance! Mr Slater reported that the Year 11 football team delivered an outstanding display of skill, determination, and resilience, securing a hard-fought 3-2 victory against Hall Cross in the National Cup.

From the very first whistle, it was clear that this would be a match to remember. Both teams battled fiercely, but the character and focus of our players shone through in every moment.

Despite the challenges and pressure, the team stayed composed, refusing to let anything stand in the way of their goal. It was a true team effort, with everyone on the pitch contributing to this memorable win. The resilience and teamwork displayed by the squad is something to be incredibly proud of!

Volleyball



On 11 December, The Wolfreton Christmas Elves and Wolfreton Christmas Nutcrackers played in a volleyball tournament.

Mr Bates reported that both sides played five matches in the tournament, with the **Elves** sitting in 4th place with a record of 2 wins and 3 losses, while the **Nutcrackers** had earned 3 wins and 2 losses, placing 3rd overall.

Well done to both teams!

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Lunchtime Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Arabic Club (F28)	Year 7-12 Grease Rehearsals (Drama Studio)	Year 7- 11 Debating Club (F1)	Year 11 Imedia (S22)	Year 7-12 Grease Rehearsals (Drama Studio)
Year 7—13 Choir Club (Drama Studio)	Year 9-11 Dungeons and Dragons (S22)		Year 7—13 Music Club (G7)	Year 7,8 Dungeons and Dragons (S22)
KS4/5 Fitness Club (Fitness Suites)	KS4 Fitness Club (Fitness Suites)	KS4 Fitness Club (Fitness Suites)	KS4 Fitness Club (Fitness Suites)	KS4 Fitness Club (Fitness Suites)
Year 7and 8 Boys Rugby (Sports Hub)		Year 9 and 10 Boys Rugby (Sports Hub)		
Year 9 Football (Sports Hub)	Year 10 Football (Sports Hub)	Year 7 Football (Sports Hub)	Year 8 Football (Sports Hub)	Year 11-13 Boys Football (Sports Hub)
SEN Lunch Club (Achievement Centre)	SEN Lunch Club (Achievement Centre)	SEN Lunch Club (Achievement Centre)	SEN Lunch Club (Achievement Centre)	SEN Lunch Club (Achievement Centre)

After School Clubs

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 7 – 12 Grease Rehearsals (Theatre)	Year 7 – 12 Grease Rehearsals (Theatre)	KS3/4/5 Netball (Netball Courts)		MFL Homework Catch Up (F36)
Year 7/8 Science Club (S11)	KS3/4 Badminton (Sports Hub)	Year 7/8 Girls Rugby (Sports Hub)		
Year 7-11 Girls Football (Sports Hub)	KS3/4/5 Volleyball (Sports Hall)			
Girls Cricket Club (Sports Hub)				
SEN Homework Support (Achievement Centre)		SEN Homework Support (Achievement Centre)		

If you would like to register your child for a club, please click on the following link and follow the instructions
[Signing my child up for a Club on the Parent Portal or Parent App – Arbor Help Centre](#)

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Curriculum Corner

Homework Provision

To keep parents informed of homework provision at Wolfreton School, we have created overview documents for all subjects at both KS3 and KS4 which show the following;

- How often homework is set in each subject
- Whether homework is set online, on paper or both
- What types of activity are being set
- How long students will get to complete the homework
- What feedback students will receive for their homework
- Links to online platforms for subjects who use them
- Support online and in school for online platform access

Arbor and Homework

- The first point of call for students in terms of recording homework is their planner.
- Staff will also put homework instructions for parental information on Arbor. Please remember Arbor is not used to check off completed homework or feedback.
- Any documents uploaded to Arbor to support with homework can be viewed by parents through the **Arbor website** only.
- Link to Arbor website: [Log in to your School | Arbor](#)

Support for Parents

During the Year 11 Launch evening in September 2024, we shared some advice for parents in terms of supporting with healthy revision routines at home.

Support for Students

During this half term, Year 11 students will continue to be supported with their revision and preparation for the summer exams.

Year 11 Tutor Time: Identified Year 11 students have been regrouped into a tutor group with a specialist teacher who delivers subject specific revision for three tutor periods a week (Tuesday – Thursday).

Access to online platforms: Last term, students were booked into computer rooms to access online revision such as GCSEPod, Seneca Learning and Tassomai for two tutor periods a week. Students still have access to these online platforms and should continue to access the resources.

Study Skills Programme: For one tutor period per week, students are being taught how to revise effectively using metacognitive strategies. So far, students have;

- Analysed their Y11 Autumn Term report and set personal goals
- Created two revision schedules – one during Autumn Term 2, and this week another for January and February to prepare for the mock exam period.
- Considered different ways in which they can identify their priorities for revision.
- Been introduced to different templates and ideas about how to structure their independent revision.

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Attendance Matters at Wolfreton

We are incredibly proud of our students' excellent attendance, which remains well above the national average.

At Wolfreton, our attendance target for all students is 97%, which still allows for up to 5 days of absence across the school year.

As part of our commitment to supporting student success, we are required to keep you informed about your child's attendance percentage and address any concerns. If attendance falls below 90%, students are classified as persistent absentees, and their attendance will be monitored closely. In such cases, you may receive an email or be invited to a meeting where we can offer support to help improve attendance.

While 90% might sound high, it actually represents a significant amount of missed learning time. Please refer to the table below for a breakdown of how attendance percentages translate into hours of missed education. Thank you for your continued support in ensuring every student reaches their full potential through regular attendance.

Attendance Percentage	Days missed	Sessions missed (AM/PM marks)	Lessons/Hours missed
100%	0	0	0
97%	5 days	10 sessions	25 lessons
95%	9.5 days	19 sessions	47.5 lessons
90%	19 days	38 sessions	95 lessons
85%	28.5 days	57 sessions	142.5 lessons
80%	38 days	76 sessions	190 lessons

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Protecting Our Teens: Raising Awareness About Snuff Use Among Secondary School Students

You may already be aware of a concerning trend that has emerged among some young people in the UK—the use of snuff. Snuff is a powdered form of tobacco that is inhaled or placed in the mouth. While it may seem old-fashioned or less harmful than smoking, it carries significant health risks, especially for young people aged 11 to 18.

What is Snuff, and Why Is It a Concern?

Snuff is often perceived as a safer alternative to smoking because it doesn't involve inhaling smoke into the lungs. However, this misconception hides its dangers. Snuff often contains high levels of nicotine, the highly addictive substance found in all tobacco products, which can:

- Harm brain development in teenagers, particularly in areas affecting decision-making, attention, and memory.
- Increase the risk of addiction to nicotine and other substances.
- Lead to serious oral health issues, such as gum disease and tooth decay.
- Expose users to carcinogens, raising the risk of cancers, particularly in the mouth, throat, and nasal cavities.

How to Spot the Signs of Snuff Use

Snuff is discreet and easy to hide, making it harder for parents and teachers to detect its use.

If you are concerned your child may be using snuff, here are some signs to watch for:

- A persistent smell of tobacco on their hands or clothing.
- Frequent sniffing or signs of irritation in the nose.
- Small containers or packets in their belongings that could hold powdered substances.
- Changes in mood or behaviour, such as increased irritability, secrecy, or withdrawal.

How can you help?

If you suspect or know that your child is using snuff, there are several ways you can support them:

1. **Open a Dialogue:** Approach the subject calmly and without judgment. Ask open-ended questions to understand why they might be using snuff and listen to their concerns. This is also a good way to educate young people about the issues of any substance use.
2. **Educate Them:** Share information about the risks associated with snuff. Many young people may not be fully aware of its harmful effects.
3. **Encourage Healthy Coping Strategies:** If your child is using snuff as a coping mechanism, help them find healthier alternatives such as sports, hobbies, or mindfulness techniques.
4. **Seek Professional Support:** If you're finding it difficult to address the issue alone, consider reaching out to your GP, school counsellor, or a local youth service for guidance and resources.

Resources for Support

- **NHS Smokefree:** Offers free resources and support for quitting tobacco use. Visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree.
- **Action on Smoking and Health (ASH):** Provides insights and statistics about tobacco use in the UK. Visit ash.org.uk.
- **Talk to Frank:** A confidential service offering advice on all substances, including tobacco. Visit www.talktofrank.com or call 0300 123 6600.

Together, we can help our children make informed and healthy choices. If you have any questions or would like further support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

It is important to note, we have not had any incidents of snuff here, however, we include this piece as part of our commitment to sharing information about potential risks with our parents.

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Sixth Form Offer Event



We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 applicants to Sixth Form on Thursday 23 January for the Sixth Form Offer Event when all our applicants will receive their official offer letter from Mrs Taylor. We will celebrate this with hot chocolate and pastries in our sixth form café to give all involved a flavour of sixth form life.

Vocational Exams

Vocational exams have taken place this week – we wish all our students involved in these the very best of luck.

UCAS

69% of students in Year 13 have already submitted their UCAS applications to apply to University in September 2025. Most of these students have now received some or all of their offers. Interviews are underway for those students applying to teaching and medicine. The final deadline for equal consideration with UCAS is Wednesday 29 January.

Mock Exams

Mock exams will take place next week for our A Level subjects. The majority of exams will take place in the Sports Hall. Seating plans are displayed on the notice board in sixth form. Most exams take place during normal lesson time and mock exams will take place at the campus where the subject is taught. Good luck to all those involved.



THE CONSORTIUM
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

WOLFRETON CAMPUS

House Points

All rewards earned by each House since the start of the year.



148,083



156,830



150,873



157,297



150,717

**Total House
Points
763,800**

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Notices

Drop Off Pick Up Point:

When using the drop off / pick up point, please can parents ensure they are not waiting in the parking bay for any length of time. This will not only support in reducing the traffic congestion on Well Lane but will help to avoid dangerous crowding minimising risk to student on foot.

Key dates

Thursday 23 JanuaryYear 8 Progress Evening (8M Band and N Band Classes)
Thursday 13 FebruaryYear 8 Progress Evening (8P Band Classes)

Have your contact details changed?

If you have changed any contact details such as home address, mobile number, email etc. this must be updated on the Arbor Parent Portal so we can ensure our system is up to date and can remain in contact with you.

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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.5 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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