

WE LINK



17th December 2019

www.willinkschool.org.uk

Issue 59

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the festive edition of WeLink. There has been a lot going on since the last edition – not just in the world of politics! We have held Learning Review Day – the review of which I shall write about in January. Our school production *We Will Rock You* ran for three nights; the cast were wonderful and we thank our drama, music, technical and admin teams for putting on a brilliant performance. On Friday Year 7 visited the Pantomime – an important element in building cultural capital! We were also visited by detention team Chase, Jasper and Rosie. Our furry friends went in every class, met every student and criss-crossed cupboards, lockers and toilets. Assistant Head, Mr Ballantyne who accompanied one team put on 8000 steps! Nothing was found. We shall repeat the exercise sometime in the year to support our effort to keep the school drugs free.

This week our festivities continue with our Celebration of Success when our recently released Year 13s return for an informal gathering to meet up with each other and their old teachers and share stories of life post Willink. We also hold our Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Burghfield on Wednesday and our Senior Citizens Concert on Thursday.

As is normal there are some staff changes at the end of term: Mrs Collen is leaving teaching to join the education wing of the Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service whilst Mr Price leaving us as Head of Computing to lead Leighton Park School's computing department. We thank them for their services and wish them all the very best for the future. Fortunately, we have

secured replacements for their roles for January – probably the worst time to recruit. We are also delighted to announce that we have permanently appointed Mrs Fiorin as our Finance Manager having overseen that role since Mrs Adye left in November. This means we shall be looking to appoint a Finance Officer – full details are on the [school's website](#).

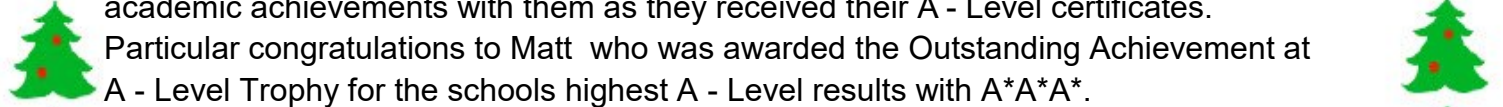
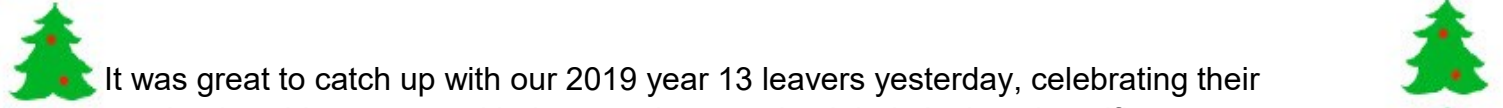
Finally, please remember that school closes at 12.40pm on Friday. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Christmas and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 6th January 2020.

Mr P Fry, Head

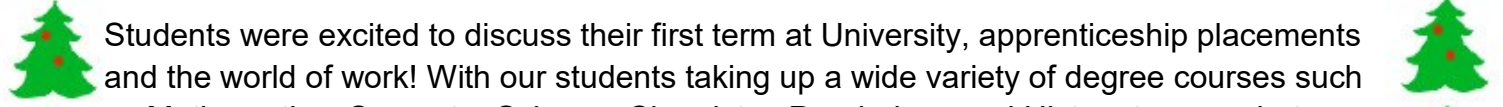




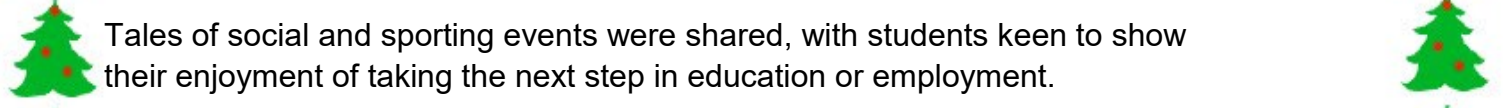
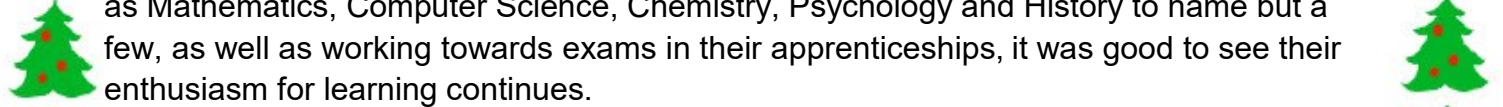
CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS



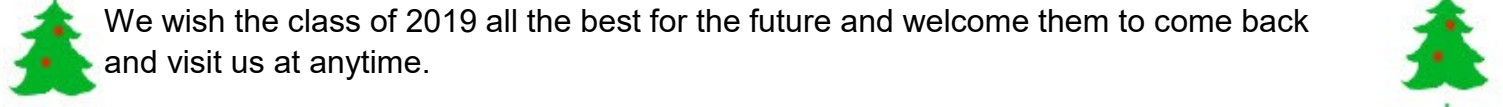
It was great to catch up with our 2019 year 13 leavers yesterday, celebrating their academic achievements with them as they received their A - Level certificates. Particular congratulations to Matt who was awarded the Outstanding Achievement at A - Level Trophy for the schools highest A - Level results with A*A*A*.



Students were excited to discuss their first term at University, apprenticeship placements and the world of work! With our students taking up a wide variety of degree courses such as Mathematics, Computer Science, Chemistry, Psychology and History to name but a few, as well as working towards exams in their apprenticeships, it was good to see their enthusiasm for learning continues.



Tales of social and sporting events were shared, with students keen to show their enjoyment of taking the next step in education or employment.



We wish the class of 2019 all the best for the future and welcome them to come back and visit us at anytime.



Mr M Leach, Head of Sixth Form



M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

WE WILL ROCK YOU

When taking part in a production you need to be ready to work hard, but the hard work you do is always very fun and pays off tenfold in the end. This production was no different, it was really brilliant and every moment of rehearsal was filled with happiness, excitement and a want for betterment, this meant we all worked even harder to give the best performance we could and we succeeded in doing so, We Will Rock You was fantastic and to be part of it was an amazing experience. Taking part in We Will Rock You gave the whole cast a brilliant experience and we all had lots of fun in rehearsals and when we reached the final nights of the long process we succeeded in making a piece we could all be proud of. Everyone gained something from the play and although there were minor hiccups (as there is in any large project) we all pulled through as a team and had so much fun, so much so that the whole cast felt sad on the final night as we had all invested so much into this wonderful production that we all knew we were going to miss it. It was a truly wonderful show with an incredible cast and crew and many of us are already looking forward to the next production!



Tom, year 12



M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s

SAVE THE CHILDREN CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Thank you for all the support for Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13th December. The school raised £480.00 for the charity with students and staff all looking very festive wearing their bright and sparkly creations. One student went the extra mile creating a bespoke jumper out of Christmas wrapping paper. It was great to see so many of our students want to help those in need.



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

Make the world better with a sweater!

IT'S BEHIND YOU!

YEAR 7 ENJOY A TRIP TO THE PANTOMIME

Friday the 13th December also saw our year 7 students take a trip to watch Aladdin at the Anvil theatre, Basingstoke. Setting off from school, all students were in high spirits, looking forward to enjoying a very British Christmas tradition.

The trip not only allows our students to enjoy the build up to Christmas, but also helps support our English and Drama curriculum with our students viewing a vibrant stage production as well as listening to a well written comedic script.

"It was filled with humour and fabulous acting." Leo 7W

"My favourite part was the singing and dancing." Sophie, 7Y

"It was great, I had so much fun." Ryan 7V

Thank you to all teaching and support staff who helped look after our students on the trip. With such high numbers attending, we could not run it without you.

Mr M Rakowski, Head of year 7

THE CHRISTMAS FACTOR

After returning from the pantomime year 7 took part in our popular Christmas Carol competition. Each seven tutor group chose a song and worked very hard across last week to get the vote from our judges Mr Fry, Miss Whitmore and Mr Rakowski. There was a real Christmas Spirit in the drama studio and a number of tutors opted this year for a cappella versions of popular carols which proved to be very popular and eventually "Mi hombre de nieve" won the best act of the afternoon. Tutor 7V and Mrs Leach were over the moon when they received the coveted prize.

Well done to all and Merry Christmas!

Mr L, Debuire, MFL Teacher and International School Co-ordinator

M e r r y C h r i s t m a s



WEST BERKSHIRE AREA CROSS COUNTRY COMPETITION

On Wednesday 27th November in extremely wet and muddy conditions 29 Willink runners represented the school at The Newbury Show Ground, where the county cross country events took place.

With over 70 runners in each category the Willink team ran some amazing races and a special mention must go to Emma, 7T in the U13 girls who finished 2nd and Ed, 9W in the U15 boys who finished 2nd in his group.



Overall Cross Country School results:

- U13 Boys - 3rd
- U13 Girls - 4th
- U15 Boys - 1st
- U15 Girls - 5th

A huge 'Congratulations' to our Under 15 boys !!!

Mrs L Ellams, PE Teacher

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our school council met on Friday 29th November for a very productive meeting. Items under discussion were litter and charities. Students would like to address the issue of litter around the school and improve the environment for all. New bins will be researched and a meeting organised with canteen staff to discuss a possible reduction in packaging.

Students also discussed non-uniform days and which charity they would like to raise money for. All students will now be asked to vote between; Children in Need, Cancer Research and Team Trees. For more information from our student council meeting please see the [update](#) given to all our year groups.



The Willink Monthly Maths Puzzle

Women in Maths Edition - December

Esther Szekeres (1910-2005), a Hungarian physicist who was also interested in Mathematical problems, proposed a combinatorial problem to her study group. This problem focused on vertices and the connections between vertices that create polygons. She named this problem the 'Happy Ending Problem' as it led to her meeting George Szekeres, whom she went on to marry. In honour of her work on connections (and with a subtle nod to Christmas!) can you complete the following problem:



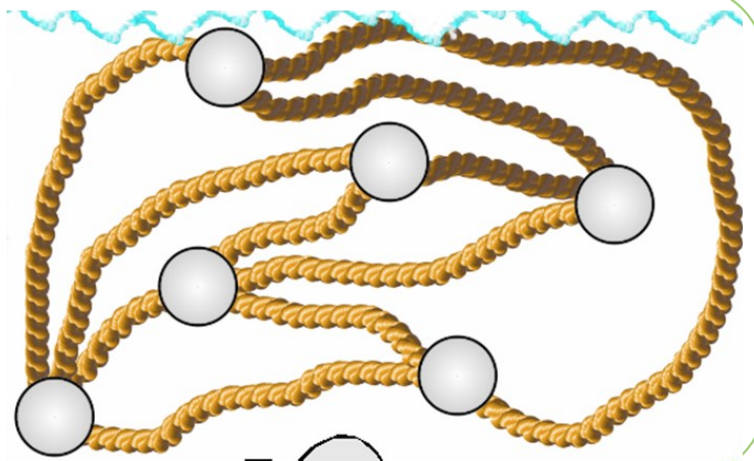
Esther Szekeres



George and Esther

Arrange the numbers on the snowballs so that no two consecutive numbers are directly connected by rope.

1 2 3 4 5 6



Submit your answer in person to your Maths teacher or Ms Teague in M6, or email your answer to lteague@willink.w-berks.sch.uk by Friday 10th January



INTERHOUSE RESULTS

KS3 Interhouse Girl's Netball

Year	Result
7	1 st – New York/Nairobi 2 nd – Milan/Manila 3 rd – Barcelona/Bamako 4 th – London/Lima 5 th – Sydney/Sucre 6 th – Paris/Phnom-Penh
8	1 st – Barcelona/Bamako 2 nd – London/Lima 3 rd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 4 th – Milan/Manila 5 th – Sydney/Sucre 6 th – New York/Nairobi
9	1 st – Barcelona/Bamako 2 nd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 3 rd – Milan/Manila and London/Lima 5 th – Sydney/Sucre 6 th – New York/Nairobi

KS3 Interhouse Boy's Rugby

Year	Result
7	1 st – London/Lima 2 nd – Milan/Manila 3 rd – Sydney/Sucre 4 th – Paris/Phnom-Penh 5 th – Barcelona/Bamako 6 th – New York/Nairobi
8	1 st – New York/Nairobi 2 nd – Barcelona/Bamako 3 rd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 4 th – Milan/Manila 5 th – London/Lima 6 th – Sydney/Sucre
9	1 st – New York/Nairobi 2 nd – Barcelona/Bamako 3 rd – Milan/Manila 4 th – London/Lima 5 th – Paris/Phnom-Penh 6 th – Sydney/Sucre





INTERHOUSE RESULTS

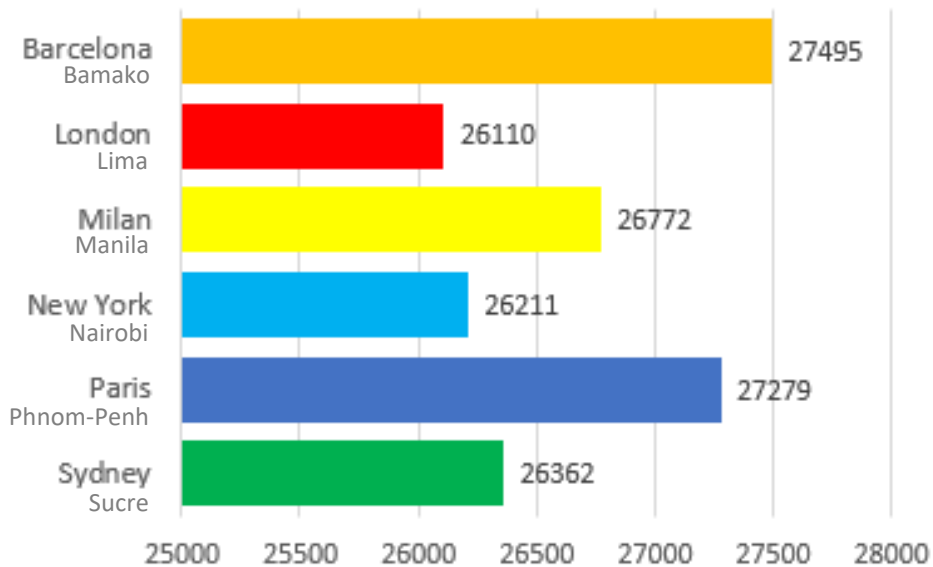
KS4 Interhouse Girl's Hockey

Year	Result
10	1 st – Barcelona/Bamako 2 nd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 3 rd – London/Lima 4 th – Sydney/Sucre 5 th – Milan/Manila 6 th – New York/Nairobi
11	1 st – Milan/Manila & Sydney/Sucre 2 nd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 3 rd – New York/Nairobi 4 th – Barcelona/Bamako 5 th – London/Lima

KS4 Interhouse Boy's Handball

Year	Result	
10	<u>A League</u> 1 st – Milan/Manila 2 nd – New York/Nairobi 3 rd – Barcelona/Bamako & London/Lima 5 th – Paris/Phnom-Penh 6 th – Sydney/Sucre	<u>B League</u> 1 st – Sydney/Sucre 2 nd – Milan/Manila 3 rd – Paris/Phnom-Penh 4 th – Barcelona/Bamako & New York/Nairobi 6 th – London/Lima
11	1 st – Sydney/Sucre 2 nd – Barcelona/Bamako 3 rd – New York/Nairobi 4 th – Paris/Phnom-Penh 5 th – Milan/Manila 6 th – London/Lima	

House Points



Train to teach information sessions for those interested in training to teach in Berkshire &/or Hampshire area

Two information meetings per day at 8.30—9.50am or 5.30—6.30pm are available on the following dates at the **Willink School** (Burghfield Common, Reading

- ◆ Monday 4th November 2019
- ◆ Monday, 2nd December 2019
- ◆ Monday, 27th January 2020
- ◆ Monday, 2nd March 2020
- ◆ Monday 27th April, 2020

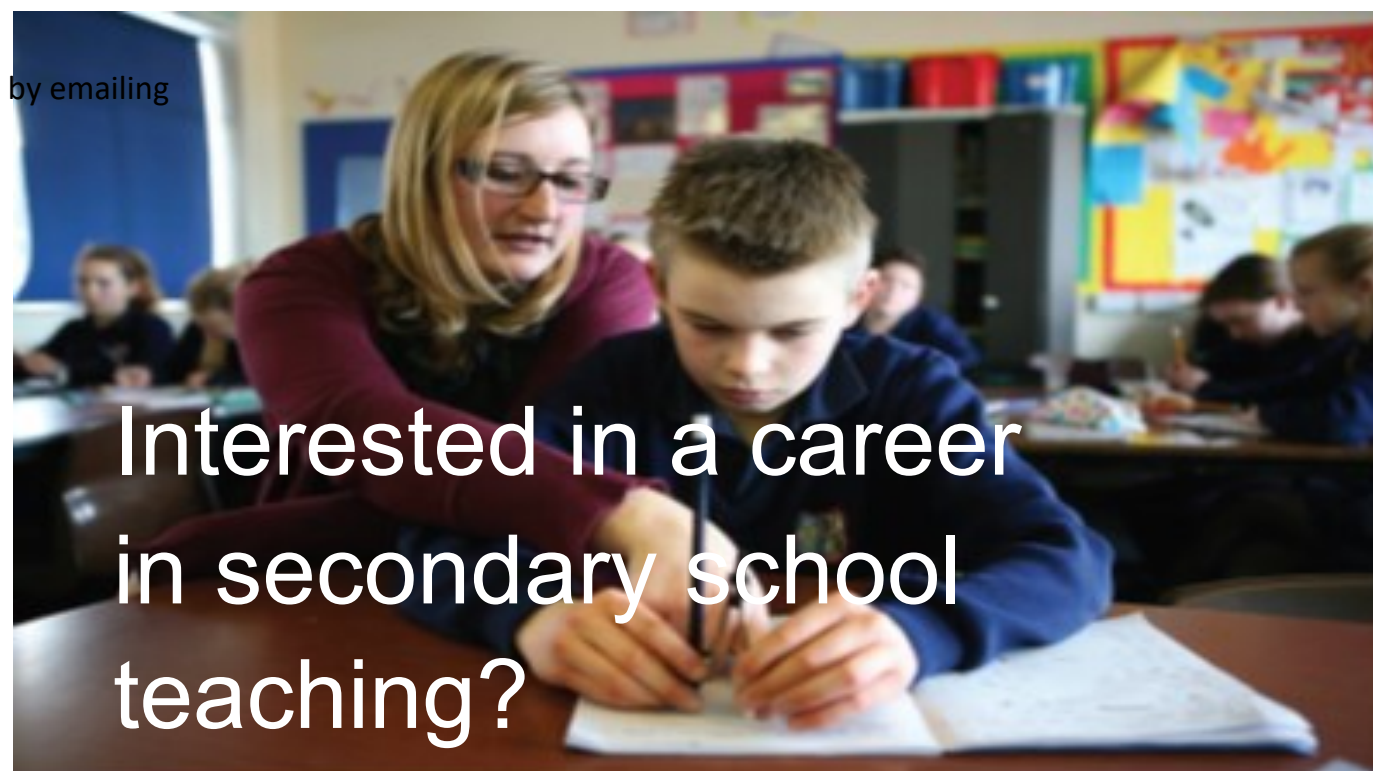


National Teaching School
designated by



National College for
Teaching & Leadership

Please book in advance for a place by emailing traintoteach@willink.w-berks.sch.uk



PGCE (Secondary) places for 2020 –21 entry are available in :

English	Mathematics	Chemistry	Biology	Physics	History	PE
Geography	Music	MFL	Computing	Drama	D & T	RE

School experience opportunities are available for applicants in partnership schools. For further details please contact :

The Willink School

Mrs Anne Lean

traintoteach@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

Theale Green School

Mrs Sarah Page

spage@thealegreen.w-berks.sch.uk

Little Heath School

Ms F Andrews

fandrews@littleheath.org.uk

The Wren School

Bessie O'Brien

bobrien@wrenschoo.org

Prospect School

Mrs Sonia Edwards

swards@prospect.reading.sch.uk

The Hurst Community College

Laura Billingham

Laura.billingham@hurst.hants.sch.uk

Merry Christmas



SCHOOL ANGEL

If you are buying last minute Christmas presents, don't forget to use School Angel when buying online. School Angel donates a percentage of your expenditure with companies such as Amazon, Argos, Boots and John Lewis to the school and all you have to do is access the online retail sites through the school Angel link. Click on the [School Angel](#) link to see which other retailers are taking part, there is something for everyone.



KEY DIARY DATES

18th December - Year 11 Interview Skill Workshop

18th December – Christmas Carol Service St Mary's Church Burghfield 7pm

20th December - End of Term, 12.40pm

6th January 2020 – Start of Term 8.40am, **Week B**

14th January - Year 11 Mock Interviews

Merry Christmas