



The Link Academy Newsletter Christmas 2021



Earth is Our Home

It's where we live, so we need to take care of it. This planet is the only one that we have, and currently our actions are not sustainable causing devastating problems for future generations.

As a school we need to reduce our environmental impact and play our part in the global battle to reduce the problems mankind has caused for future generations.

Therefore, as a school we have set up an Eco-committee whose aim is to improve the environmental performance of the school and change our culture to become more sustainable.

The committee consists of students who volunteer and meet regularly to run the school Eco drive.

As a committee we have completed a review of the academy's environmental performance. This has then been used to produce an action plan with our priorities for this academic year to improve the environmental performance of the Academy.

A priority is that of single use plastics, we are trying to improve the environment by using less plastic because it is one of the biggest environmental problems facing Earth, mainly due to the fact it sticks around in the environment for such a long time, threatening wildlife and spreading toxins.

The Eco-Committee aims to achieve the Plastic Free School award by the end of the academic year as evidence of our progress in reducing the use of unnecessary plastics.

Much work has already been done, but keep an eye on the newsletter and social media for updates on our progress.

The Eco-Committee would love to hear about how you are taking environmental action or ideas you have to reduce plastic use in the community.

Written by Fatima Ahmed (Year 10)

For more information or to share your eco action please contact Mr White (cwhite@thelinkacademy.org.uk).

Message from the Principal

Dear Learners, Parents and Carers,

It's been a hive of activity at The Link this half term! We've had Year 7 learners DREAMING BIG by visiting local business Thomas Dudley, for some careers inspiration!

Year 8 learners have been engaged in Poetry by Heart and have been performing their poems in English lessons as part of LEARNING THAT INSPIRES.

Year 9 learners have been LEADING TOGETHER by working with younger learners to teach PE as part of their Sports Award in Character Education.

We were REWARDING EFFORT in Year 10 as they were the first year group to take part in the off-timetable Autumn Term rewards programme and finally Year 11 learners have been developing their leadership groups in LGBTQ+, anti-bullying, anti-racism, eco-schools and much more by encouraging all of our learners to RESPECT EACH OTHER AND OUR WORLD.

We have also launched our SLT form time reading to Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 by having our Principal and Vice Principals reading to a year group each. After the Christmas holidays we will be launching our READING CORNER and coming soon is our 21st Century Library, led by Kindle technologies. A huge thank you to Sandwell College and Central St Michaels Sixth Form for donating Kindles to support this initiative.

We wish all of our families a happy and restful festive period and look forward to a positive start to 2022 at The Link Academy.

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards-Morgan
Principal





MasterChef

Article by Mrs Haywood

The Link Academy MasterChef competition is underway and well done to D'Shey for winning the first heat to go through to the semi finals in the summer. He made an amazing Spaghetti Carbonara and showed himself to be a worthy contender for the MasterChef title!

Heats are being held on the first

Tuesday of each month right the way through to the summer term. The winner and runner up of each heat will then go through to the semi finals before the final is held at the end of the summer term where someone will be crowned The Link Academy Master Chef Champion.

If you are interested in taking part see Mrs Haywood or Mr Parsons for more information and to sign up.



Christmas Card Competition 2021

Article by Miss Davis

Well done to all learners who entered the competition, and to the runners up. This year we had two winning card designs created by Year 8 learner's **Leah** and **Mehmet**.



Winning card designs



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 28.91.....
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely

Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £

Registered Charity No. 219279



Thank you to everyone at The Link Academy that supported the Poppy Appeal collection this year.

Lost Property Article by Mrs Fletcher

Please remind your child that if they have any items that they have mislaid, to come to Pupil Services to check to see if it has been handed in. Lost property not collected by Friday 7 January 2022 will be disposed of.

Extra - Curricular Timetable 2021 - 2022

Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast Club - 8am LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Breakfast Club - 8am LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Breakfast Club - 8am LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Breakfast Club - 8am LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)
Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Dodgeball Gym changing room	Football Club (Year 9 & 10) Astro	Basketball (Year 9, 10 & 11) Sports Hall/ Gym
LSU Homework Club (C111) Year 7, 8, & 9 (C110) Year 10 & 11	Fitness Club Gym changing room	Girls Football Astro	Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)
Tuesday	Creating Writing English B203	Netball Club (Year 9 & 10) Sports Hall	3D Design (Year 11 Only) Mr Walker
Breakfast Club - 8am LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Drama Club D004 Mrs Marshall	Unihock Club Gym changing rooms	CALM Club C101 Miss Matteo
Football Club (Year 7 & 8) Astro	Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Reading Club English A303	Badminton Sports Hall
Benchball Gym changing room	Gardening Club (COMING SOON) Mrs Hill	Newspaper Club English A302	LSU Homework Club (C111) Year 7, 8, & 9
Eco Club A205 (Mr White)	Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)	
Logistical Games B002 (Miss Cross/ Mr Gardner)	<div>  <p>What time? 2.45 – 3.45pm (unless stated)</p> </div>		
Homework Club LSU (Year 9 & 10) C111 (Year 7 & 8)			



Message to Year 8

Article by Mrs Brown

Happy Christmas! So sorry we can't have you with us this week. Keep learning online and please send me an email to let me know how you are getting on. You have been amazing this year and next year, we will smash it! Sending Christmas wishes.



The Link Academy has also been collecting donations for our Christmas food bank. This week our learners have been busy delivering the donations to the food bank and care homes. We have raised over 700 meals. Thank you to each and everyone who have donated.

Year 7 E-Safety Project

Year 7 have been working on E-Safety project with Miss Aston, producing information Powerpoints.

CYBER BULLYING — Bilal Mahmood

- Cyberbullying **can happen** to anyone in the world
- Its easy to affect someone when something **mean** is said to them
- They can take pictures of you** and **photoshop** it and filters
- They ways of dealing with cyberbullying is by **blocking** them and **reporting** them to the **police** or your **parents** or **teacher**



Trojans :

What is a trojan? A trojan is a scam that is trying to trick you to thinking that it's a useful and safe website or email. A Trojan is designed to damage and disrupt your data or network.

Trojans can also have a job to hack your data and emails.

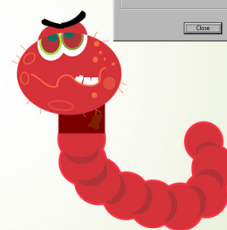
To stop a trojan you must NEVER click onto the email or website you've been sent !

You can also make sure that you have installed a antivirus trojan app that's always running on your device.



WORMS

Worms spread itself actively transforming itself over a network to spread itself over to multiple devices. Worms can copy themselves between 100 and 1000 times. If you try to delete it, it will spread more and more until your device crashes. This could make your computer become bricked. **Bricked** means when a software has been affected to much by malware and no longer works.



FAKE NEWS



- Fake news is when people make up fake news/information and post it online, people do this sometimes and pretend they are somebody who they are not such as famous people and celebrities.
- Trolls do this sometimes just to give people false information or for clickbait because they want to get views and likes.
- You can recognise fake news in lots of different ways: spelling mistakes, if they are saying they are a celebrity and there is no blue tick there is a good chance they could be lying.
- When you think you are seeing fake news make sure to report it.





It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition!

Mince pies and yule logs were all on the menu for the last practical lessons of the year for the Year 10 GCSE learners! Even the decorative holly and some of the plates were made in the Design and Technology department. A great team effort and yes, they did taste as good as they looked!

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2022.

The Link Leisure Centre

Monday - Friday from 5.00pm

Sports Hall

Floodlit 5-a-side synthetic area

Call us on 01384 986549 or visit www.thelinkacademy.org.uk for more information

Involving Parents in our School Life – December 2021

Working with parents/carers and children in our care at the Link Academy encompasses many things on a daily basis and it is always a pleasure to support in any way, this will be my final entry for the newsletter as I will be retiring in the New Year.

I would like to thank everyone I have worked with during my time at the school and of course all the families and children who have made my job so enjoyable and worthwhile, I will miss you all very much.

Wishing everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year ahead.

Mrs Paulette Worsey - Parent Link Worker

Dudley Adult and Learning Team Courses

Please find below courses and workshop information for the New Year, not everything has been allocated a day and time for delivery, however further information will be available soon or is already on their course enquiry list, this is the link: <https://aclcourses.dudley.gov.uk/>

- New Year courses include, Maths, English, ESOL, Digital Skills, Food Safety & Hygiene, British Sign Language, Community Interpreting Award and Level 1 in Mentoring.
- For the health conscious - Pilates, Exercise, Healthcare apps and Resilience.
- Creativity - Drawing, Watercolours, Stained Glass and Floristry courses.

Contact Glen Ostins on 01384 816471 or 07824598894 for more information.

Parent Support Sessions - Dudley Parenting Service

We offer Triple P Parenting Support to support the parent and child relationship as well as Early Help, please contact us if you are interested.

The Parenting Team have developed a series of workshops in partnership with Here4Youth and First-Class Foundation youth charity. All sessions are on Zoom or Teams. Sessions available on many topics including:

- Social Media – What do you know?
- Reducing Family conflict - Getting teenagers to cooperate.
- Looking after yourself – Parental mental health & well-being.
- Parent Advice Line available - If you want to discuss your concerns or need support call 07827873377 on Wednesdays 6:00pm- 7:00pm and Fridays 10:00am-11:30am.

For more information contact Sharon Williams Supporting families and Parenting Coordinator. To register go to parenting@dudley.gov.uk

Election of Parent Governors

We are delighted to announce that we have successfully filled the two vacancies for elected Parent Governors on the Local Advisory Committee of The Link Academy.

The academy received four nominations for our two parent governor vacancies and the ballot closed at 4.00pm on Thursday 2nd December 2021. A total of 37 votes were received and we are happy to announce that Mohammed Rohail Aslam and Fakhra Janjua were duly elected.

Thank you to all the candidates for putting themselves forward to be considered and to all parents/carers who voted in the election.

Should you have any queries, please contact Mrs Gill Darwood, Director of Corporate Governance by email gill.darwood@dudleycol.ac.uk

Spring Term Dates 2022

Term Starts: Tuesday 4th January 2022
Half term: Monday 21st February 2022 - Friday 25th February 2022
Term Ends: Friday 8th April 2022 (INSET Day)