



## A Message From Our Principal

Dear Learners, Parents and Carers,

What a year we have had at The Link Academy. Achieving an Ofsted GOOD in every category in February, followed by an incredible set of GCSE results which place us as the MOST IMPROVED school in Dudley based on Progress 8 Score. More recently, we've seen the amazing production of Shakespeare's Hamlet and a wonderful Christmas Fayre. Our staff and learners continue to go above and beyond in support our Academy to be the very best it can be.

The year has also ended on a very sad note for us all, with the tragic loss of our Y11 learner, Ruby Davies. Our thoughts will be with Ruby's friends and family this Christmas. I'd like to say how proud I am of our learners in the way that they have responded during the last few weeks. We have seen so many positive ways to remember Ruby, including floral tributes, beautiful poems, donations to her fund and wooden heart plaques with messages of support. Ruby will be missed by us all, but I absolutely know that our Y11 learners will keep her in their hearts and will go on to achieve amazing things next year in her memory.

Please stay safe this Christmas, cherish time with your friends and family. We wish all of you a happy holiday and we look forward to starting 2023 with the continued ambition to make The Link Academy, one of the top schools in the UK.

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards-Morgan  
Principal

# The Link Academy Newsletter Christmas 2022



## Hamlet - School Show

Article by Mr Lewis

Over 500 people were lucky enough to experience The Link Academy's performance of 'Hamlet'. One of Shakespeare's most challenging plays was brought to life with a modern twist. The buzz around school was tangible as an incredible group of learners and staff came together to produce something ambitious and unforgettable.

## Christmas Fayre

Article by Hafsa Ali

I was lucky enough to organise The Link Academy's first ever Christmas Fayre on Saturday 10th December.

It was an honour to be given such a huge responsibility not knowing what the outcome would be and I must say that it was a great success as we raised nearly £400.

There were several stalls such as a Raffle, Multiple Tombola Stalls and Guess the name of the Teddy. The community had the opportunity to win many amazing prizes like tickets for a Family of 4 to visit Safari Park, a Power Drill and a Bike. They even had the chance to take a picture with Santa and his special Elf Lloyd.

Thank you to everyone, especially Mr White who helped me immensely with organising everything towards the Christmas Fayre. Hopefully, the outcome of this Fayre would allow many more successful events in the future.



[www.thelinkacademy.org.uk](http://www.thelinkacademy.org.uk)



[www.facebook.com/thelinkacademydudley](https://www.facebook.com/thelinkacademydudley)





Wishing you a safe and happy Christmas from  
West Midlands Police

For further advice call **101** or visit  
[www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

Contact the independent crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers anonymously on  
**0800 555 111** with information about crime

In an emergency dial **999**



Preventing crime, protecting the public and helping those in need  
[www.west-midlands.police.uk](http://www.west-midlands.police.uk)

## Christmas Safety Guide

All you need to know to keep safe at Christmas



### Keep your home secure

- **Securely lock all doors and windows** before going out or going to bed. Use a timer device to switch lights on after dark.
- Don't put presents under the tree until the last possible moment – and **close curtains** so your gifts can't be seen from the street.
- **Mark your postcode** on new presents with a UV pen. Note down the serial number and record it at [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com) so if it is ever stolen, you're more likely to get it back.
- After Christmas, **remove** any trace of expensive gift packaging by taking discarded boxes to the tip or recycling centre.



### Keep your car safe

- **Check your fob has done its job** – don't assume your vehicle is secure, always check doors and windows are locked before you walk away.
- **Remove valuables** such as sat navs, MP3 players, laptops, tablets, coats and loose change before leaving the vehicle.
- **Wipe away** tell-tale suction marks from the windscreen – this may alert a thief to your sat nav being hidden inside the vehicle.
- **Don't advertise** what you've bought by leaving gifts on show while you return to the shops – lock everything away in the boot. Take shopping inside immediately when you get home.



### Freeze out car thieves

- **Don't leave** your vehicle unattended and the engine running while it defrosts – a thief could drive off with it.
- Stay with your vehicle and if you're in a rush, use **de-icing spray** and a scraper to speed up the process.
- **Sit inside** your vehicle while the heater de-mists the windscreen.
- **Claims on insurance** policies can be affected if the vehicle owner is deemed partly responsible for the theft.



### Love your phone

- **Be discreet** – keep your phone and other valuables out of sight in public.
- Note down the **unique IMEI number** – you will need this number to report a stolen phone. Key \*#06# into your mobile to display this number on screen.
- **Listen to your instincts** – know your route, avoid dark places and if you don't feel safe, move to a busier area.
- Trace lost or stolen phones by activating the **in-built tracker app** or by downloading a reputable one from your app store.

**YOUR PHONE**



### Beat the pickpockets

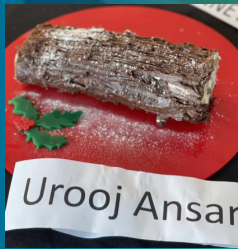
- **Keep handbags closed** and close to you, and wallets out of back pockets.
- **Try not to** overload yourself with bags and coats.
- **Don't leave** pushchairs, shopping bags or trolleys unattended. Take personal belongings with you into changing rooms.
- **Be discreet** when handling cash and cards at the till and at cash machines – put them away immediately and keep an eye on who is around.

### Socialise safely

- Pubs, restaurants and other venues will be **crowded**, so don't hang bags over the back of your chair and keep wallets and purses close to your body.
- Have fun but **drink sensibly** – binge drinking and excessive drinking at home before a night out puts you at risk of crime. Never leave drinks unattended or accept them from strangers.
- Find out the times of the last tram, train or bus home, or **pre-book a taxi** from a local licensed operator.
- **Never drive** under the influence of drink or drugs.







Its beginning to look a lot like Christmas in GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition!  
Yule Logs were on the menu for the last practical lessons of the year for the Yr10 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 Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023.



We have been busy this month making cards for our local care home, Netherton Green and donating to our food bank.

Learners Hafsa and Chloe enjoyed handing over cards made by tutor groups. A lovely way to make the elderly in our community smile for Christmas.

Kindness in our academy is paramount. Learners are reminded about its importance; sometimes small acts of kindness have maximum effect. Nine learners received the kindness reward, these were nominated by staff for their consistent display of kind acts.







## 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 6 January 2023 will be disposed of.

# Spring Term Dates

**Term starts:** Tuesday 03 January  
**Half term:** Monday 20 February - Friday 24 February  
**Term ends:** Friday 31 March



## The Link Academy Christmas Card 2022

Article by Mr Fellows

Well done to all learners who entered the Link Academy Christmas Competition this year, we picked 1 winner and 2 runners-up out of 40 learners.



## Student Leadership

Article by Mr White

This has been a busy term for our student leadership team. We have recruited a large number of new members and are seeing our students really taking the lead on aspects of school life and school improvement.

Our Student presidents and vice presidents have formed new interest groups and all student leaders are now part of one of the following groups:

- Student Voice
- Student Welfare
- Student Experience
- Charity and Community
- LGBTQ+
- Anti Racism working party
- Eco committee

We continue to grow our influence across the school by taking part in corridor duties, assemblies and school events such as The Hamlet Drama performance.

This culminated last week in student leaders helping to plan and run the school Christmas Fayre which was a great success.

Thank you to all for your help.



## Eco-Committee newsletter

Article by Mr White

For the schools eco team it has been a busy half term to build upon the work done last year to earn the Eco Schools Award. This year we plan to continue building on our success to further improve the environmental performance of the school. Activities this term have included:

- A number of litter picks around school site
- Growing plants with the aim of every classroom having some greenery this year
- Fundraising to help fund an outdoor learning space
- Educating the school community about the hazards of plastic pollution.

We have much more to do and will continue to work towards our aims of reducing environmental impacts of school activities and reducing plastic waste.

Ways you can help at Christmas include:

1. Use reusable bottles - On average the UK throws away over 130 plastic bottles per person per year. Only around 9% of these get recycled.
2. Recycle soft plastics - Supermarkets such as Tesco now have to offer soft plastic recycling. Bag it up and take in to be recycled - it may shock you how much packaging you throw away.
3. Be energy conscious - turn off lights, use energy saving lightbulbs, turn the thermostat down a little - all these actions also save you money.



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