



## A Message From Our Principal

Dear Learners, Parents and Carers,

The festive season is upon us and what a term it has been at The Link Academy. We have been DREAMING BIG with careers events galore, including Year 7 visiting Thomas Dudley and Year 11 having their one-to-one careers interviews!

We've also been RESPECTING EACH OTHER AND OUR WORLD by collecting for the Christmas Food Bank appeal again and by supporting a collection for the Palestine Children's Relief Fund.

Our wonderful ambassadors have been LEADING TOGETHER to plan The Link Christmas Fayre and to support the development of learner led focus groups including those focussed on charity and well-being.

REWARDING EFFORT remains a huge focus, with a big increase in merits awarded, our rewards event at Dudley College was a massive success and our attendance is well ahead of last year thanks to our big push on 96%+!

LEARNING THAT INSPIRES is all about the classroom and we've seen huge developments with the trial of VR headsets in Science and Geography. We wish all our families a restful and peaceful winter break and for those celebrating, a VERY Merry Christmas!

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards-Morgan  
Principal



# The Link Academy Newsletter Christmas 2023

## A Christmas Carol

Article by Mr Lewis

The cast of A Christmas Carol, which featured learners from Year 7 to Year 11 performed to over 1000 people in the penultimate week of term. A huge well done to all people involved, from on stage to musicians, as they created something special.

A full house on the last night, and a standing ovation, capped off what has been a wonderful experience for many of our learners. The Creative Arts Team were brimming with pride at the hard work and successes of the learners. This will be a school show that will be remembered for some time to come!



[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  
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## 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.



### 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.





## Christmas Card 2023 Double Winner

Article by Miss Bates

This week saw our double award winner Demi-Leigh, visit Russell's Hall Hospital to receive her winning Christmas Card design officially printed and sold at the Hospitals charity corner, to help raise money for the hospitals chosen charities. Watch out in the local newspaper as you may be seeing her as our new face and celebrity of the Link Academy Christmas Card Art Competition.



## Christmas Fayre

Article by Mr White

We would like to give a massive thank you to everyone involved in the Christmas Fayre which ran on Saturday 09 December.

Lots of staff and learners volunteered their time to help set up and be there on the day as well as donating loads of items for the stalls.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped in any way. The day was a success and we raised money for Midlands Air Ambulance. The total will be announced in the new year.







## Mind To Be Kind

Article by Mrs Robbs

The whole school has been making Christmas cards during form time for our local care home; as a school, we need to help the community, and making a simple Christmas card will make the care home residents smile during the holiday period.

We have continued our efforts to listen to learner voice and their passion for helping others. In doing this, they have raised over £420 by running a staff dodgeball versus learner competition and simply donating money into our donation pot. Thank you to all who have contributed money that will continue to be raised for Palestinian children affected by conflict.



Staff versus learner dodgeball competition raised over £120.

## Year 11 News

Article by Mrs Haggart

Year 11 have been working extremely hard this term. Learners have attended Upgrade, online revision sessions and half term sessions as well as attending normal lessons, showing their determination to succeed.

Recently learners received their PPE results and some learners were even lucky enough to be rewarded with vouchers, for their improved results and effort. In English Language, 63 learners improved their grade from their Y10 PPE and an incredible 59 learners in Maths. Success has been seen in non-core subjects too with 25 learners improving in History and 17 in Health and Social Care.

I am over the moon with the results and know that this is only the start and I am sure the next set of PPE results will be even higher. Keep up the good work! Well done Year 11!

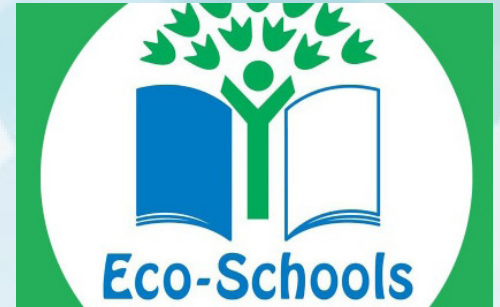


## Student Leadership News

Article by Mr White

Our student leadership programme began the term recruiting new leaders from our new year 7 cohort. We now have a record number of student leaders in the programme. Our student leaders have settled well into a new duty rota with more responsibility and more visibility to raise the profile of our student leaders.

We have also helped with a number of events including the school show, awards evening and our leaders planned and run the school Christmas Fayre which was a great success raising money for Midlands Air Ambulance.



## Eco-Committee News

Article by Mr White

Our Eco Committee have been busy this term trying to focus on making improvements to our school site. In October we were successful in bidding for the supply of over 200 tree saplings which have been planted around the school site. In November after another successful bid to an environmental charity we planted over 250 plants to introduce our own wildflower meadow. With luck on our side we will see some significant growth by the spring. Finally, please take note of the following tips to limit your environmental impact this Christmas:

- Wrapping paper can be recycled, please separate paper and plastics and put out with your usual recycling.
- If you have a 'real' Christmas tree there are charities that will collect them for use
- We often have a 'clear out after Christmas rather than throwing things away can you donate them to a good cause instead?
- Food waste is a real problem - only buy what you need.

# Spring Term Dates

**Term starts:** Monday 08 January  
**Half term:** Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February  
**Term ends:** Friday 22 March



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