



# MAPLEWELL NEWSLETTER

## Preparing for Adulthood

### End of Year Letter from the Head

As we reach the end of another very successful year at Maplewell Hall School, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on our achievements and thank everyone connected with the school for the hard work and dedication.

Our pupils, your sons and daughters, continue to show enthusiasm and perseverance in all that they do. Education is not only academic, but personal development is so important for our pupils. From the start of the day at breakfast club, through the school day and extra-curricular activities, our offer is extensive and fully appreciated by all of our pupils. I can proudly say that no other school offers what we do. The many trips and visits have given our pupils valuable experience of the world beyond Maplewell. They have embraced it. Our recent reward days instill values for life, where hard work and dedication are rightly rewarded.

I want to thank our staff for their ongoing and unwavering support. They continually go above and beyond, helping our pupils to thrive in a nurturing and positive environment. Our research-based approach ensures that what we deliver is of the very highest quality at all times. Something that is regularly monitored throughout the academic year. Our standards remain high.

We have a couple of staff moving on, but one very significant one. I always see change as a positive thing, but it is important to recognise the contribution of individuals. Sue Brown has decided to retire. She has been an ever present during my time at Maplewell. I have admired her hard work, passion and dedication throughout my time here. Sue is retiring after 23 years of service at Maplewell. This is an incredible achievement. Typical of Sue, she has not wished for any fuss to be made as she departs, choosing instead to inform me this week of her decision. I have thanked her on behalf of everyone connected with our school. She will be spending more time with her family but has promised to return in the Autumn term for an afternoon tea with us.

I would like to thank you, parents and guardians, for your continued support and involvement in your children's education. Your partnership with us is key to the success of creating a strong and vibrant school community.

This term has seen many highlights, including sports day, the pupil music concert, a number of outstanding performances' at Curve theatre, Leicester, the summer fair and the pupil's prom. These events reflect our commitment to providing our pupils with the best opportunities possible, and they highlight the diverse talents and interests of our school community.

As we approach the summer break, I encourage everyone to relax, recharge their batteries and make the most of quality time together. It is important to find the right balance between relaxation and preparing for the challenges and opportunities that next year will bring.

Please note that the new term will start on 27th August, 2024 for pupils, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready to embark on another exciting year at Maplewell. Thank you once again for your wonderful support. Have a wonderful, safe and restful holiday.

Jason Brooks  
Headteacher



# Maplewell Prom 2024



Our Year 11 and P16 students had a great time at the Prom! The evening was filled with a variety of activities, including fireworks.







## Maplewell Arts Week 2024



17th - 21st June saw our Maplewell Arts Week 2024. The students had a wonderful week. All of KS3 students were able to take part in workshops which included screen printing and giant wheel weavings, playing card tabards and fantastic Mad Hatter Hats. Year 8 were involved in the fun filled physical theatre workshop and P16 students ran an amazing workshop to help KS3 students make book hedgehogs. Students did an energetic dance workshop, baked for our tea party and Year 7s learnt a medley of songs. We also had themed creative writing lessons.

This culminated in a fabulous Arts Showcase on the Friday, displaying all the artwork and creative writing the students had created, their fabulous performances and our Mad Hatter's Tea Party. The sun shone, the students were amazing and everyone had a great day. Huge thanks to all the staff who were involved in the event and to the parents for supporting the students.





## Rewards Day





## Animal Care (Treat Making)

The Land Based Studies / Animal Care group have been busy building these wonderful treats for the Guinea pigs!



## Land Based Studies - Horticulture

This term the pupils have been growing seasonal vegetables from seed. They recently ate peas that they have grown.



Our visitor in to Animal Care, A Praying Mantis. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed meeting her. Thank you very much for bringing her in Lily B.



## Year 10 Land Based Studies

The Year 10 Land Based Studies Pupils have been to Stonehurst Farm. The pupils have accessed animals they have not previously, and taken part in activities such as feeding cows, lambs and goats, stroking the ponies and donkeys, handling the Guinea pigs, looking at the process of chicken / egg through to a laying chicken, bottle feeding a lamb and even going on a tractor ride. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all managed to do something they have not done before.



## Yoga Therapy Sessions

Maplewell students have been practicing a ribbon sequence in their yoga therapy sessions. The choreography was fluid and required calm control in the various poses. Ribbons were used to extend and progress side bends, back bends, forward bends and balances.



## Student Success

Emily in Year 7 has danced in her Latin and Ballroom Competition in Manchester over the weekend, and has won three 1st place and three 2nd place trophies! What an amazing achievement Emily!



## 8DW Project

8DW has been working on a project run by EPIC for the last six weeks called 'Growing Talents for Learning'

As part of this they worked together to plan and run an event - they chose a charity cake and art sale. Some of the students baked goodies and others produced artwork to sell, and raised £37 for the RSPCA



## P16 Enterprise

Rhys, Harriet, Luke and Casey from Maplewell P16 had an industry visit to Pladis, a biscuit making factory on Tuesday 18th June. Amongst other lines, the factory produces, Penguins, Jaffa Cakes and Iced gems. The tour involved a presentation regarding the business, a question and answer session with the manager of the site, head of HR, the chief engineer and head baker. The students were great ambassadors for the school and spoke confidently to the Pladis staff. The morning ended with a tour of the factory where the highlight was watching the bakers make the iced gems, first cooking the biscuit dough then mixing and adding the icing. The students were impressed by the thousands of biscuits coming off the line, including new lines about to be launched in July. The visit was very informative and enjoyable. We all left with a "goody" bag including some of the new varieties.





## Medieval Day

The glistening of steel, the whisper of arrows soaring through the sky, the battle cries echoing across the fields; Maplewell went medieval for two days. The Year 7s and 8s managed to brave the heat to display their combat skills; Max valiantly defeating the sandbags, Alfie's adeptness at axe throwing, Mrs Mangham's war wounds. Fear not! Students are now well equipped to go forth into battle.



## Silver DofE Expedition

Six of our P16 students successfully completed the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition from 17th to 19th June.

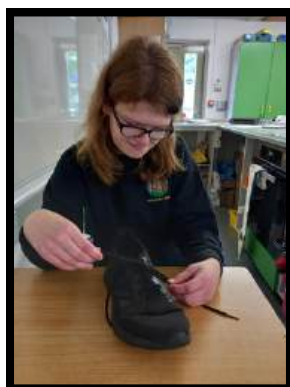
All participants demonstrated tremendous skills, resilience and determination to navigate the 35 kilometre walk around Hungarton, Billesdon, Cold Newton and Lowesby, over three days with two overnight camps.

Well done and congratulations, everyone!



## Student Achievement

Anna in Year 10 has persevered for the past few weeks and is now able to tie her shoelaces - well done Anna! We are so proud



## English & Math's Achievements

This week Miss Greenhill and Mrs Durrands awarded badges and certificates to the students who had achieved the highest achievement points on both Sparx Reader and Sparx Maths. Well done for your hard work and dedication, this additional work is sure to have a positive impact! Students can continue to use Sparx over the summer to continue earning points.



## Developing Literacy Skills at Maplewell

We know that developing literacy skills is essential in order for our students to be successful at Maplewell and in their lives outside of school. It can be difficult to know how to support them with developing these skills at home, so to support with this, [here is a link to our monthly literacy newsletter](#). Once a month we will share what students have been focusing on in reading time, as well as suggestions for things you can do together at home.

If you have any suggestions or questions, please contact me via email:

[k.durrands@maplewell.leics.sch.uk](mailto:k.durrands@maplewell.leics.sch.uk)

[Summer Reading Challenge](#)

Mrs Durrands  
Head of English

## 9KI Science

Learners from across the school have been enjoying rounding off the year in Science. With practicals ranging from burning food to see how much energy is in them; to seeing how fast they can make pond weed photosynthesise by counting bubbles; to using microscopes to look at bits of insects (like their legs and mouths!) – they've all been having lots of hands on fun. 9KI have been learning all about food webs with this hands-on activity – working as a team to create a giant food web and then thinking about what happens if one part of the web gets taken away by disease or hunting. They've also been finishing off their project in the Sensory Garden area making sure that it is planted up and weed free for the summer so that it looks beautiful when we come back after the holidays.



## Expeditions Thai chef Recipe



### Ingredients:

- 2 Coloured Bell Peppers
- 6 Kaffir Lime Leaves
- 2 Chicken breasts
- Handful of Basil leaves
- Large / Fat Noodles
- 2 cloves of Garlic
- 2 chilli peppers
- 50 ml water (more if needed)

### Seasoning:

- 1 tablespoon of clam sauce
- 2 tablespoons of chicken stock powder
- 2 Tablespoons of Soy Sauce
- Half teaspoon of salt
- 1 teaspoon of sugar

### Method:

- 1 Grind up the chilli and garlic in the pestle and mortar
- 2 Add oil, chilli and garlic to the pan and fry lightly for 1 minute
- 3 Add in the chicken cut into strips, stir in the seasoning and water and cook until cooked though
- 4 Add in the cooked or blanched noodles and stir through until the noodles are soft
- 5 Add in the shredded peppers, lime leaves and basil
6. Serve







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## Maplewell Careers

As the academic year comes to an end, it's time to reflect on what has been another fantastic year for careers education at Maplewell on both the main site and at post-16. This is largely down to the hard work and dedication of the careers team and the support we receive from the whole school staff team.

The government requires us to measure our careers programme against 8 nationally recognised benchmarks (The Gatsby Benchmarks). This year we have achieved 100% completion of all 8 benchmarks. This compares with a national average of achievement of 5.5.

Without becoming too technical, the benchmarks look at our career programme from a number of angles:

- Education – what are we teaching students about careers in lessons?
- Encounters – What opportunities do students have to meet employers, employees, post-16 education providers and trainers?
- Experiences – What opportunities do students have to see workplaces for themselves?
- Information – What careers information do we provide students to help them plan their journey into and through adulthood?
- Guidance – What opportunities do students have to talk to trained professionals about their journey through into adulthood?

### Education:

Careers education is delivered in P4A at all years. Lessons include skills for employment, applying for jobs, and enterprise. Career education is also included in ICT lessons, where students are taught to write personal statements and CVs. In ICT they also learn how to use our career platform, Morrisby. We are a Skillsbuilder 'Gold' school and use their Essential Skills across all subjects. The Essential Skills are the 8 skills we all need to succeed in the workplace. Teachers in all subjects make links between their subject and these skills, and assess students against them.

### Encounters:

As a school, we have worked with over 60 employers who have provided encounters for our students from Year 7 to post-16. All students attended the careers fair in September where they encountered a range of education and training providers. Students in Year 8 to 11 have attended assemblies delivered by providers of post-16 courses suitable for students from foundation level up to those aspiring to go to university. Post-16 students have hosted employers and employees and had the opportunity to talk to them about work and education.

### Experiences:

We recognise the truth in the statement, 'You can't be what you haven't seen.' To ensure that every student has seen as many jobs and roles in the community as possible, we deliver a huge number of trips and visits because everywhere is someone's workplace. This year we have delivered over 800 trips and visits accounting for over 8000 learner days. Students at Post-16 have completed workplace visits, work-shadowing, work experience and placements with large employers like Amazon, Caterpillar Inc. as well as with numerous small, local businesses. At Post-16, every student has had 38 days experience of work through the Young Enterprise programme based at Coalville CAN.

### Information:

We moved to our new career platform, Morrisby, this year. All students have an account and all students have been taught how to access it and have been introduced to the assessment tools. I hosted an online family webinar to introduce the platform to parents and carers. The recording of this is available on the school's website. Morrisby uses the likes, skills, qualities and aspirations that students input, to provide up to date information about jobs students might want to consider and the pathways they might follow to get into those positions. In addition to Morrisby, the school's careers pages signpost students and their families to a wide range of career-related information.



## Maplewell Careers

### Guidance:

I have delivered just short of 100 personal guidance meetings with students this year. I have also offered guidance meetings at parents' evenings and over the phone to almost 20 families.

### Looking forwards:

From a school perspective, we have signed up for the National Quality in Careers Award, in preparation for next year. Having achieved all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks, we feel we are well-placed to achieve this and further demonstrate the fantastic work we do within careers.

From a parent's perspective, I would like to signpost the following:

### Next year's Year 7 and Year 8:

I know you feel like you've only just arrived at Maplewell, but preparing for their journey into adulthood begins on day 1. If you haven't linked up with your child's Morrisby account, then I suggest you do that over the holidays. Linking in to Morrisby is a great way to see what careers learning your child has done and have conversations about what their next steps might be.

### Academic Year 24/25

Year 9 is the first 'big decision' year. In February students will need to choose their GCSE/Key Stage 4 options. To help them do this, they will have a guidance meeting. To prepare for this meeting, Year 9 students should have updated their Aspirations, Priorities and Study Interests on Morrisby because these will be the starting point for their guidance meeting. To be well-prepared for GCSE options, students should also have started to think about their next destination for Post-16, whether that's Maplewell Post-16, an FE college or an alternative/specialist provider. If they want to go to college at the end of Year 11, they need to know if there are any entry requirements they will need to consider when making their options. I suggest that parents and carers spend some time over the summer looking at college websites to start to understand what is on offer.

### Year 10:

Things start to get serious in Year 10. Year 10 is the year that parents and carers should be booking to visit colleges through their Open Days and Events. All FE colleges will have Open Days in their calendars from September and I would strongly advise parents and carers of Year 10 students to regularly visit college websites to look out for advertised Open Days and book online. Maplewell Post-16 and other alternative/specialist providers tend to take a more personalised approach. If you are interested in attending any of these Post-16 providers, give them a call and arrange a visit. Do not leave this until Year 11!

### Leavers:

For any students in years 11 to 14 who are planning on leaving, your decision should be made by Christmas 2024. At the very least, you should be able to provide a shortlist of possibilities by this date. You might for instance have a plan A if your GCSEs go really well, and a plan B if they don't go so well.

### Advice for everyone:

The world of work and education is changing rapidly. It is important that students have the right qualifications to get where they want to go, but nowadays it is even more important that they have the Essential Skills too. I encourage every parents and carer to use the resources at Skillsbuilder HomeZone, to help their children to develop these skills over the holiday in preparation for the year to come.

Finally, thank you to all those parents who have found employers willing to work with us. There is no legal requirement for businesses to take on students for work experience or allow them to visit a workplace, and there is certainly no financial incentive for them either. We have a small team of staff and it takes a lot of work hours from first contact with a business to getting them to deliver and encounter or experience. If you have any work contacts in your local community and you think they might be at least willing to listen to us, then please share those details with us.

Have a productive and restful holiday. I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Rob Cooper (Careers Leader)



## Caterpillar Menphys Work Ready Crew

Harry, Cole, Sam, Kieran, Marcus and Phoebe from P16 were selected to attend the 7 week Work Ready Crew Programme at Caterpillar. The programme involved gaining an insight into Caterpillar the company, a health and safety identification exercise, lunch in the main canteen, Introduction and interaction with Caterpillar machinery, table top work simulation, exercise, a measuring table task, jigging and packing parts, brake pedal assembly challenge, cab build, quality assurance of the Backhoe loader and a tour of the facility. The students worked alongside mentors and despite initial nerves and some very challenging tasks, were very successful and praised by the staff for their resilience and progress throughout the programme. It was a pleasure to work alongside the "crew" and watch week by week as their confidence grew. Parents attended the introductory session at the start of the course and also the celebration events in the final week. Students were presented with a certificate, a "goody bag" and got to keep their PPE. The students made us all very proud.



## P16 Student Success

Maplewell P16 are really proud to announce that Harry, after successfully participating in a 7 week Work Ready Crew Programme at Caterpillar in the Spring, has after a rigorous recruitment process, secured himself an apprenticeship with the company starting in September. We wish Harry the best of luck and are very proud of his progress and success.



# WELL DONE!

## News & Information

First News is the leading source of news and news-based learning for children. It is age-appropriate (aimed at 7 to 14 year olds but accessible for all ages), impartial and helps keep kids reading and developing their critical literacy skills.

We love using First News in the classroom and are thrilled to offer all Maplewell Hall School students a free First News digital subscription over the summer holidays. It's packed with fun and educational content that will keep minds active and entertained all summer long.

First News digital is available via an app and includes:

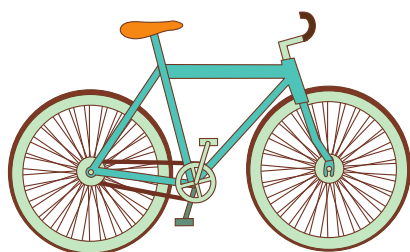
- Daily news stories which children can read, listen and react to. These include reports on the Euros, the Summer Olympics, and the upcoming general election.
- The latest issue of the newspaper and many past issues
- Weekly polls to vote on
- The latest episodes of Sky Kids FYI weekly news show
- Fun puzzles and games: great for improving vocabulary
- Tips & Talking points for parents and carers to help you talk about tricky topics with your children

Click here for our school's unique access link: <https://subscribe.firstnews.co.uk/summer-reading-2024/?m=B2706327>



### Cycling Event

Free event - Wheels for All fun day. A great opportunity to experience their wide range of adapted bikes, such as Trikes, Tandems, Hand powered, and a Wheelchair platform.

A colorful poster for 'Cycle Fun Day'. It features a yellow background with colorful bicycles and people riding. Text includes: 'Everyone who pedals receives a gold medal!', 'Leicester Wheels For All invites you to Cycle Fun day', 'All our bikes are adapted for any disability including wheelchair users', 'Sunday 4th August 2024', '11am til 2pm', 'Saffron Lane Stadium Leicester LE2 7NQ', 'Pedal for a medal 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm', 'Try all our bikes for free!', '12pm onwards learn new bike skills from Welland Valley Cycle Club', 'Celebrate Olympics and Paralympics', 'Bring a picnic!', and the website 'www.leicesterwheelsforall.org'.

### Term Dates

Autumn Term 2024

Staff Training Day - Wednesday 21st August 2024

Staff Training Day - Thursday 22nd August 2024

Staff Training Day - Friday 23rd August 2024

August Bank Holiday - Monday 26th August 2024

School Opens - Tuesday 27th August 2024