

PARENT / CARERS NEWSLETTER



PRINCIPAL BLOG

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are still riding high from the start of the academic year, and I must say, the effort from our students has been truly remarkable. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to parents and carers for their continued support in making this a successful start to the academic year.

Our Open Evening was a great success. All three of the Principal/SLT presentations were fully booked, and the feedback from prospective parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive. I would like to firstly thank our students - over 200 volunteered to stay after school to conduct tours, supporting subject departments and we are so proud of how they represented our school, upholding our visions, values and mission. A huge thank you must also go to our staff, who worked tirelessly to showcase their departments—it was a real team effort. A special shoutout goes to the six Year 7 students who spoke on Open Evening. Standing in front of approximately 250 people is nerve-wracking, but your confidence astounded everyone.

In addition to Open Evening, this year we have opened our doors to prospective parents/carers and their children for Open Mornings. This was done over the two weeks following the Open Evening. These, too, have been very well received, and there are a few spaces left, so please help spread the word.

There have been several more exciting trips this term, including; a trip to the Pinnacle Climbing Centre, Northampton for our Year 7 students, the Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Gold Assessment, in Snowdonia for our Year 12 students, and the *Dear Evan Hansen* trip to the Curve Theatre, Leicester for our GCSE and A-Level Drama students. Once again, these experiences are invaluable in enriching our students' education and helping them build important life skills and protected characteristics for their futures.

Throughout this week, we've been hosting activities to support World Mental Health Day which took place on Thursday, 10th October. As we approach the half-term break, we have several important events coming up, including BTEC coursework assignments, GL assessments for Years 7, 8, and 9, and Years 7 and 13 reports go out. Additionally, there are more trips planned to wrap up this busy term.

Finally, we're very excited about our upcoming production, *Matilda*. Rehearsals have been going well, it promises to be a fantastic show, and tickets go on sale next week. Be sure to get your tickets!

Thank you all once again for your continued support, and we eagerly anticipate all that the rest of this term will bring.

Mr S Frazer
Principal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dates for your diary...

- 16 Oct : Flu Vaccinations
- 25 Oct : Half Term
- 7 Nov : Sixth Form Open Evening
- 14 Nov : Year 9 Parents' Evening
- 15 Nov : Staff Training Day
- 18 Nov : SEND Parent Forum, 5-6pm



SCHOOL FIELDTRIPS

School Trips happening this month...

- 16 Oct : Year 10/11 Beliefs & Ethics Trip
- 21 Oct : Headfest Trip (selected students)
- 22 Oct : Year 11 Geography Birmingham Trip
- 23 Oct : Year 10 A Engineering Club visit 2
- 6 Nov : Sixth Form Othello trip to RSC
- 12 Nov : Year 11/12 National School and College Leavers trip to NEC

SEND

If you have a query or a question about your child, please initially direct this to your child's tutor.

If this is relating to a SEND specific area please email SENDAdministrator@Guilsborough.northants.sch.uk

REGULAR ATTENANCE AND PUNCTUALITY ARE IMPORTANT LIFE SKILLS

When to come to school	When to come to school but inform us	When to stay at home
<p>Your child can come to school if they have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sore throat• Cold• Cough• Feeling tired• Hay fever• Achy or sore limbs <p>Children can still take part in learning with the above – send your child to school with tissues and give them medication at the start of the day.</p>	<p>Your child can still come to school but inform us of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headache• Feeling sick• Stomach-ache• Earache• Toothache• Feelings of anxiety• Twisted, sprained or broken limbs <p>Children can still take part in learning if they are experiencing the above, we have highly trained staff in school that can support with anxiety.</p> <p>We can adapt and do risk assessments for children with broken limbs.</p>	<p>When your child needs to stay at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temperature of over 38 degrees• Sickness and diarrhoea• Contagious illness (chicken pox, impetigo, measles)• Operations/medical treatment <p>Medical evidence should be provided to ensure the absence is authorised.</p> <p>You must inform the school in the morning on the first day of absence and every day following this.</p>

Key Information

Students should attend school for 190 days per year.

If your child is ill, contact the school on each day of absence, before 8.40am on 01604 740641 or email (absence@Guilsborough.northants.sch.uk)

If no contact is received regarding the absence, it is recorded as unauthorised. Ultimately the school is responsible for deciding if the absence is acceptable or not. Only genuine absence will be authorised.

GOLD QUALIFYING EXPEDITION FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH PARTICIPANTS IN SNOWDONIA

A group of our determined students completed their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold Qualifying Expedition in the picturesque landscape of Snowdonia from Thursday 26 September to Sunday 29 September 2024.

The four-day venture, which stretched from Porthmadog to Dolgellau, saw participants navigate through challenging terrain, braving both unpredictable weather and long hikes to earn their prestigious Gold Award.

The expedition, carefully planned in advance by the students themselves, included route mapping and teamwork, essential skills that are integral to the Duke of Edinburgh Award criteria. The students were transported by coach from the Academy to the starting point, Porthmadog, early on Thursday morning, with all necessary equipment in tow. Equipped with maps, compasses, and essential survival gear, they embarked on their trek across Snowdonia.

As part of the assessment process, each student had to demonstrate proficiency in navigation, campcraft, and endurance, which were monitored by experienced assessors. The route included varied terrains, from coastal paths to mountainous regions, providing both a physical and mental challenge. By Sunday afternoon, all participants successfully reached Dolgellau, where they were greeted with a sense of accomplishment and pride.

This expedition marks the culmination of months of preparation, which began with a practice expedition earlier in the year. The students demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and leadership throughout the journey, qualities that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award aims to foster.

Mr Flanagan, Head of Life Skills & Duke of Edinburgh's Award Manager, expressed his pride in the students, noting their determination and positive attitudes, even when faced with tough conditions, saying:

"It's been incredible to watch them push through the challenges and grow as individuals. This experience will undoubtedly stay with them for years to come."

As the students returned to Guilsborough Academy on the Sunday evening, the sense of camaraderie and achievement was palpable. Many of them are now one step closer to receiving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, a nationally recognised achievement that reflects their commitment, resilience, and skills.

We look forward to celebrating the students' successes in an official ceremony, later in the year.



EDUCATIONAL TRIP YEAR 7 PINNACLE CLIMBING CENTRE

On Tuesday 24 September, Year 7 students from Guilsborough Academy took part in an exciting adventure at the Pinnacle Climbing Centre in Northampton. As part of their settling-in process, the students faced the climbing walls with enthusiasm and determination.

The day provided an opportunity for students to bond with their peers while engaging in physical challenges. Some students went beyond their comfort zones, bravely facing their fear of heights and showing remarkable resilience in overcoming these personal obstacles. Their commitment to tackling the challenges set before them was a highlight of the trip.

The Manager of Pinnacle Climbing Centre expressed their pleasure at hosting, stating:

“We're pleased to host Guilsborough students once again. As always, the students displayed great behaviour, determination and commitment to the tasks put their way.”

Mr Cope, Head of Year 7, said:

“Well done, Year 7! We are proud of your efforts and look forward to seeing you conquer more challenges in the future!”

Congratulations to all the Year 7 students who took part in this experience! This adventure has not only been a fun day out but has also contributed positively to their journey of settling into life at Guilsborough Academy.



THE CURVE THEATRE TRIP



On Tuesday 1 October 2024, our GCSE and A-Level Drama students had the exciting opportunity to attend an evening performance of the critically acclaimed musical Dear Evan Hansen at The Curve Theatre, Leicester. The trip provided invaluable learning experiences for all.

For our GCSE students, this outing served as an essential part of their curriculum, offering them a firsthand experience of live theatre. This will directly support their preparation for Section C of their final written examination at the end of Year 11, where they must analyse a live performance they have attended.

For our A-Level students, the trip offered a chance to deepen their understanding of how various production elements - from lighting to costume design - are thoughtfully combined to evoke emotional responses from the audience. This real-world experience will be invaluable as they apply this knowledge to their coursework, both theoretical and practical.

Mr Jackson, Head of Performing Arts, who coordinated the trip and accompanied the students, was full of praise:

“The students were exceptionally well-behaved, and many of them were deeply moved and inspired by the performance. It was particularly gratifying to see audience members engaging with our students during the interval, discussing the play and their Drama studies with enthusiasm.”

A special thanks to the staff who accompanied the students on this memorable trip: Mrs Phipp, Mrs Shiels, and Miss Ayrton. We would also like to thank Mrs Wilson and Miss Blencowe for their efforts in organising the trip. Lastly, a big thank you to all the parents/carers who braved a late and rainy evening to pick up their children. Your support is always appreciated!

This trip was not only a memorable experience but also a key stepping stone in the students' educational journey, reinforcing the power of live performance in modern theatre.



READING CHALLENGE

Students can pick up their Autumn Reading Bingo Challenge card from the LRC.

Those who complete the challenge can collect their reward from B4.



AUTUMN READING BINGO CHALLENGE

Name _____

As the temperature gets colder and your nights get darker, can you curl up and complete this autumnal book bingo?!

Write the name of the text you've read that matches each of the boxes.

Read a text that is set in autumn _____ _____	Read a text that has animals in it  _____ _____	Read a text that isn't something you'd normally read _____ _____
Read a text that is set outdoors _____ _____	Read a text that has a spooky setting  _____ _____	Read a text that contains a mythical or supernatural creature _____ _____
Read a text with a nice warm drink  _____ _____	Read a text with a red or orange cover _____ _____	Read a recipe and use it to bake a cosy treat  _____ _____

CONGRATULATIONS

Textiles

Congratulations to Eva in Year 10, for participating in a competition over the summer.

It was a competition for 18 and under young people, to create an item of clothing out of scrap material. The material can be old clothing or any piece of scrap fabric.

She showed a creative and confident way to sew a new item to show use of recycling skills. She won the competition, winning a small monetary prize. Superb work Eva!



CYBER AWARENESS - PHISHING ATTACKS

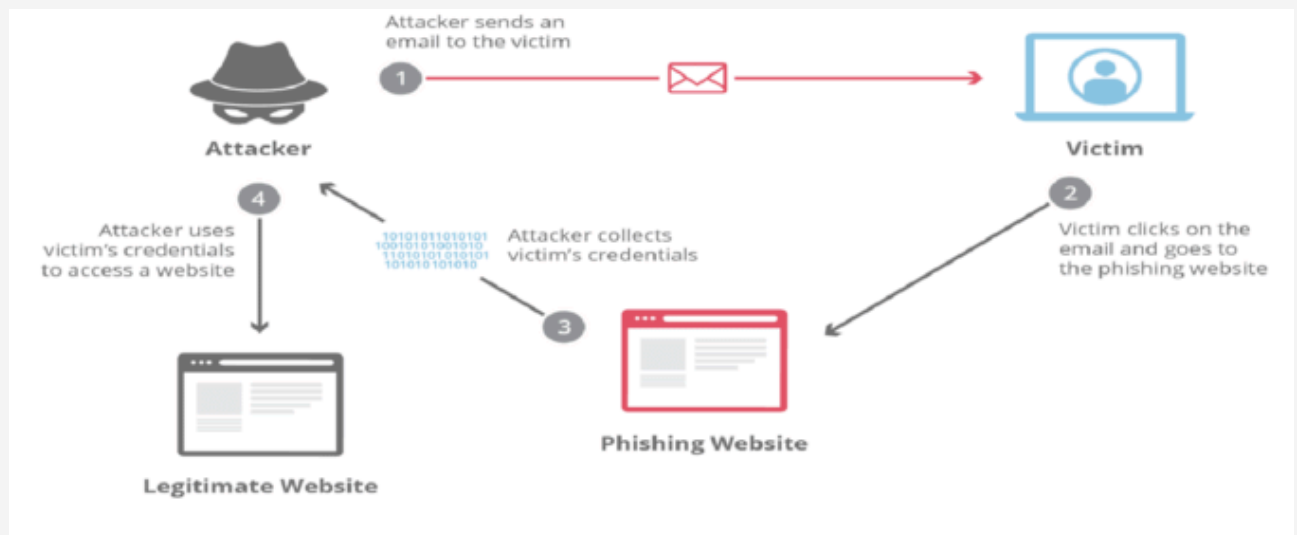
Phishing is a type of cybercrime that involves tricking people into sharing sensitive information or installing malware. Phishing attacks can be carried out through emails, text messages, phone calls, or websites.

Phishing attacks are dangerous because they can lead to identity theft, financial loss, and other cybercrimes. Some examples of phishing attacks include:

- General phishing
Hackers send out thousands or millions of emails to random people, hoping that some will fall for the scam.
- Search engine phishing
Hackers create fake ads that look like they're from a legitimate company, and prompt users to enter sensitive information.

Here are some ways to protect yourself from phishing attacks:

- Be aware of your privacy settings on social media.
- Use strong passwords for accounts with sensitive information.
- Limit the number of accounts with privileged access.
- Use technological mechanisms like firewalls, blocklists, and filters.
- Get cyber security awareness training.



To check if you have been subject to a data breach from cyber-attacks go to <https://haveibeenpwned.com/> and check your email address.

GUILSBOROUGH SUCCESS STORIES

Swimming

I wanted to take a moment to share with you some exciting news from a few weekends ago which highlights the fantastic talents and efforts of our students both inside and outside of the academy.

On Saturday 21 September, Corby East Midlands International Pool hosted the Northamptonshire Swimming County Short Course Competition 2024. In addition to my role as Principal, I am also Head Swimming Coach at Rushden Swimming Club, taking swimmers to County, Regional and National championships and I regularly attend swimming meets where I am proud to support and cheer on our students who participate.

This particular weekend featured the County Short Course Sprints, which is an entry-level event for representation at County, Regional, and even higher levels of competition. It was wonderful to see several of our students competing with great enthusiasm and skill.

I'd like to extend special congratulations to the following students for their impressive performances:

- Lacy-Mae and Hannah, both in Year 7, swam superbly and beat their previous personal bests in several events. They both won their respective heats in the 50m Backstroke - an incredible achievement for two of our newest members of the academy community!
- Evie, in Year 10, competed in four events: 100m Individual Medley, 50m Backstroke, 50m Breaststroke, and 50m Freestyle. She achieved personal bests in two of these races, showcasing her continued dedication and improvement.

It's always a joy to see our students excelling in activities they are passionate about outside of school, and I couldn't be prouder of all of these students' hard work and accomplishments. These competitions provide valuable experience and help develop qualities like perseverance and determination, which are equally important in the classroom.

Mr S Frazer
Principal

GUILSBOROUGH SUCCESS STORIES

Karting

Another special mention to another student whose talent ceases to amaze me.

Caelen, in Year 8, has been karting for approaching 5 years, with his first championship year in 2023. He entered the National Club 100 League Super Light Weight Category Cadets (finished in the top 25 out of 68) and then the Daytona Milton Keynes Inkart Championship (and finished runner up by 1 point).

In January 2024, Caelan was entered for the Daytona Champion of Champions race (the top 3 winners in the local Championships from Milton Keynes, Tamworth and Sandown) Caelen won all 3 of his heats, took pole position in the A Final and won!

This year Caelen moved into a junior category for karting and was given a seat in the Daniel Ricciardo Series for 2024.

Caelan is extremely dedicated and talented at karting, and since January 2024 has progressed to top rookie in the 2024 season for the Daniel Ricciardo Series DRS100 (DRS100 is for ages from 12 years old up to 16 years old).

He has his sights set on a Motorsport career, and we are firmly convinced that limitless opportunities await him. To follow Caelen's journey please follow @caelen.msport on Instagram.



GUILSBOROUGH SUCCESS STORIES

Please see Caelen's race report and images from GYG Karting on the 21 and 22 September below...

GYG Race Report – 21 and 22 September 2024

Great weekend for the final one on Novice plates! Didn't quite get the top rookie but was a great result still!

Saturday 21 September 2024

FP1 - P10

FP2 - P10

FP3 - P17

OFP1 - P17

These were OK practices, about where we thought we should be, maybe a little behind.

Qualifying - P18 (P2 Rookie)

Not perfect, but solid qualifier and hopefully we could push up the pack the next day.

Sunday 22 September 2024 Warm up - P16

For the first couple of laps I was trying to help my friend, who had just moved up from the Arrive n Drive rental series to see the lines, and I gave him a bit of feedback to help him at his first race.

Heat - P18 ↑ P14 on track (P12 after penalties) (P2 rookie)

Great heat! Got into it and made up a bunch of places to aid in the fight back up the field.

Pre-Final - P12 ↓ P16

It was a chaotic race, even before it started, with rain coming down on the slick tyre fitted karts, while we were pushing them down to the grid.

There was a scramble to fit inters, with some people only having full sets and having to put them on, and others who had entered the gate before the rain and were stuck on slicks. We managed to get in 10 seconds before the gate closed on some inters, but it turned out the track was still dry as the rain had stopped as quickly as it had started. Everyone was going as they would in the dry but on wet tyres, so it proved to be an absolute gravy train the whole time. 😂

Grand Final P17 ↑ P13

Another really good race, but also the first wet one!

It chucked it down for almost half an hour before our race, so there was no denying that the race would be raced with wet tyres.

It was honestly torrential, on the straights I had to pull away from the slipstream so I could actually see, but in the end I got some moves and almost took a competitor at the end, after catching-up at almost a second per lap.

GUILSBOROUGH SUCCESS STORIES

Such a good weekend and can't wait for the final round at Whilton, can't believe it's almost been a year since we went to watch the Whilton race last season, to see how the series was.

Caelen



Thank you for your ongoing support of our students and their endeavours. Moving forward we will be placing additional focus within the Parent/Carer Bulletin on encouraging and celebrating the extra-curricular successes of our extremely talented students, so if you have anything to share about your child then please email:

goodnews@guilborough.northants.sch.uk

Many thanks,

Mr S Frazer
Principal

COMING UP...

TICKETS GO LIVE MONDAY 14TH OCTOBER



**Guilsborough Academy
Performing Arts Presents:**



ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL JR.

Adult tickets £7

Child tickets £5

Ticket shop QR code



Ticket shop URL

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/guilsborough-academy>

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

Tuesday 3rd December

Wednesday 4th December

Thursday 5th December

Performance starts at 7pm

(Doors open 6.30pm)

Guilsborough Academy is available for hire!



Book your
space today

www.school-space.org



SCHOOL
SPACE

With excellent communication and a desire to help, the team at School Space helps us provide reliable and consistent venues for our classes.

Dan McAteer, MF Martial Arts

COMMUNITY NEWS

BOOK SALE

Fill a box for £10 with as many books as you can or Books from 50p.

**At Long Buckby
United Reform Church**

**10am
–
12:30**

**26th
October
2024**

Refreshments
available

All proceeds go towards a Girlguiding volunteering trip to Tanzania

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Six Week Course
Mon - Fri

1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2:30pm
3rd session 4 - 4:30pm
(optional session for reflection and support if needed)

Loughborough Lightning will take on Bristol Bears in their first Premiership Women's Round, kick starting the 2024/25 season!

This fixture is on the 5th October KO @15:00

WHAT'S ON



YOUTH Inspired

Youth Clubs in

- Daventry
- Kilsby
- Crick
- Kingsthorpe
- Litchborough
- Spratton
- Hartwell
- Rothwell
- Wellingborough



JOIN NOW



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