



Banbury Aspirations Campus Newsletter

December 2023

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Friends,

As long standing members of the Banbury Aspirations Campus we are delighted to be leading the school as Acting Joint Principals of Wykham Park Academy and Futures Institute. Between us we have over 36 years of experience working on the Banbury Aspirations Campus site. With both schools achieving good Ofsted grades within the last 12 months, we look forward to leading the school into the next phase of its development on its continuing journey to outstanding. To find out a little more about us and our experience, please read on! If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Carly Berry: Carly started her career as an English teacher in Rugby schools. During the first part of her career, she worked in various leadership roles around English and supported Year 10 and 11 as a pastoral lead. She then moved to New Zealand for two years, where she worked at a high performing Auckland school and spent some time travelling and learning about effective educational practices. She has been a senior leader at Banbury Campus since 2015, where she first joined as an Assistant Principal leading on teaching and learning. In 2017, Carly moved to become Head of Sixth Form and led the sixth form team to an outstanding OFSTED rating in 2018.

Julia Ingham: Julia started her career as a Humanities teacher at Banbury School over 30 years ago under the then Principal Anita Higham. Having completed over 25 years as a member of the Senior Management Team undertaking a variety of roles, she has been involved with the Aspirations Academies Trust since its inception when Banbury School became the first of the Trust schools in 2011. Her most recent role since 2017 has been Head of School at Futures Institute, which recently achieved a very positive Ofsted inspection including praise for its innovative curriculum and creative links to local employers in the Banbury area.



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Upcoming dates and events



Wykham Park Academy and Futures Institute are proud to present **Matilda Jr** at Wykham Theatre on Tuesday 16th January, Wednesday 17th January and Thursday 18th January 2024 at 7pm. Tic'kets are now on sale for £5. We have been rehearsing since September and the students are really excited to share the story of a special little girl who uses her power for good with you all. Please come and support us. We look forward to seeing you.

Matilda Jr.

Important dates:

- Y11 Parents evening /Face to face - 14th Dec
- Year 9 Parents evening - 25th January
- Year 12 Parents evening - 8th February
- Year 7 Parents evening - 14th March
- Year 10 Parents evening - 16th May
- Year 8 Parents evening - 13th June
- Y6 transition meeting 1st July

For Year 10 and Sixth Form 2024 entry



students and staff can wear a Christmas jumper for a donation of £1 or an item of non-perishable food

20TH DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS JUMPER
DAY & SANTA FUN RUN



www.futuresbanbury.org/www.wykhampark-aspirations.org

01295 257942 / 01295 251451

Banbury Aspirations Campus, Ruskin Road, Banbury, OX16 9HY

On 20th December the school will close at 12.30 and we look forward to seeing students again on Tuesday 9th January. Inset day and no students required on Monday 8th January.

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Follow for news!

A reminder that you can find the latest news and information about school events at our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/futuresbanbury>

<https://www.facebook.com/wykhampark>

Like and follow us!

Library News

Ebooks

We now have ebooks available for students to borrow. Students can either read online at <https://wpafi.eplatform.co/> or download the eplatform by Wheelers app onto their smartphone or tablet. Accounts have been set up for students using their email address (or their windows log on for year 7 and 12) and Password1 as their initial password. See Mrs Michell for more details.

Clubs in the library

We have a number of clubs running in the library:

Running every Wednesday lunchtime in the library, our creative writing club is going from strength to strength. We are lucky enough to have our resident author Philip S. Davies come in every week to help our young people with their creative writing. He also invited students to attend his recent launch for his new book 'The Cave of Immortality' at St Mary's Church in Banbury and give a reading of the first chapter.

We also have a Books and Biscuits club on Tuesdays after school where we talk about books, watch author talks, play literary games and make some book related crafts. We would love to have some more students join us.

New for this year is Dungeons and Dragons club which is run by our students after school on Tuesdays. New members are very welcome.

Finally, please have a good look at home for library books - we currently have over 300 overdue!

Clubs!



We also run a termly 500 word writing challenge – this term's theme is 'Enemy'. Congratulations to Chloe, in year 10, who won writer of the term for her entry into the 'Game' theme challenge last term.

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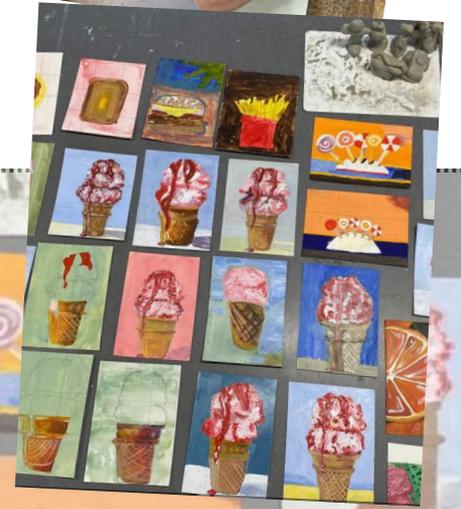
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Saturday Art Year KS4 workshop

On the Saturday 4th of November, 25 KS4 students attended a Painting workshop, ran by the Art department in school. The workshop focused on students building their techniques and skills covering topics such as underpainting, blending, colour mixing and composition. By the end of the workshop students created a finished piece of either an Ice cream painting inspired by Artist Joël Penkman or a food painting related to their GCSE coursework. The students worked so hard and we are very proud of them for making such fantastic Artworks!

The next Art workshop will run on Saturday 9th of December from 10am-3pm. If you are interested in coming please confirm with Miss Smith by emailing her at jsmith@wykhampark-aspirations.org.



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REWARDS!



As part of our on-going commitment to improve our rewards and recognition programme within school, Wykham Park and Futures Institute will be launching a new, whole campus, Positive Behaviour and Rewards system.

Our objective for this programme will be to ensure that all our pupils are recognised and rewarded for the often-brilliant things that they do in and around school. We would also like to increase the communication to parents so you can share these successes with your child on a weekly basis.

From January the campus will be introducing a variety of new rewards which will strive to recognise attendance at school, attainment in lessons and aspiration to be the best version of themselves. This is based on the 3 guiding principles of the campus, SELF WORTH, ENGAGEMENT and PURPOSE.

We will be introducing the following rewards which we believe will allow pupils to see the value in excellent attendance, behaviour and recognise them for doing so:

Achievement points – There will be a new tiered system for awarding achievement points which will have a focus on SELF WORTH, ENGAGEMENT AND PURPOSE.

Achievement certificates – Pupils can obtain new achievement certificates for reaching an aspirational number of achievement points. Awards will start at Platinum Level for 40 points with pupils aiming to reach the Diamond Level by the end of the academic year.

Weekly recognition email – This will be an email sent to parents to recognise the pupils who have achieved 100% attendance, no negative behavior points and at least 1 achievement point.

Aspirations ACE Award – A weekly nomination from teachers for pupils who have demonstrated the following:

- Attitude to learning
- Contribution in and around school
- Excellence – striving to be the best they can



The ACE awards will be celebrated during assemblies and certificates will be sent home to share pupil's success.

Subject Termly Rewards – For students who have excelled in a particular subject throughout the term. These are shared in assembly and emailed home to parents.

Weekly recognition - During assembly for pupils with 100% attendance, students with the highest number of achievement points and teams of the week for students who have represented the school.

We are extremely proud of what our students achieve every single day at Wykham Park and Futures Institute and we believe our new programme will provide a positive start to the new year. It will look for every opportunity to praise and reward our pupils, allowing them to see the value in good behavior, attendance and aspiration.



PE News! We have had a fantastic start to the academic year within the PE department. The highlight so far has been the increased number of pupils who have been attending our extra curricular clubs and representing the school in such a brilliant and determined fashion. Over the last number of years we have been working really hard to introduce our pupils to a range of new sports and activities and this year pupils have really taken to this, meaning we have been able to see record numbers of pupils playing competitive sport in our district competitions. Each week we have regularly seen over 100 different students playing extra curricular sports which has been a pleasure to watch.

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Why is student attendance important?

We know that sometimes our pupils cannot come to school because they are really unwell - and that's the right thing to do for them and other students. Medical advice is clear however that children with mild illness will often be well enough to attend - for example if they have a cough, or cold, without a temperature. The NHS guidance *Is my child too ill for school?* - NHS (www.nhs.uk) is designed to support parents in their decision making about mild illness.

What YOU must do:

Try to telephone the school before 8.30am each day of your child's absence.

Tell the school in advance of any medical appointments and bring in appointment cards/letters.

If you are not sure whether your child is well enough to attend school, send them in anyway as they often perk up on arrival.

Have a backup plan for if your child misses transport, call on a family member, neighbour or friend.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance then talk to us as a first step so we can help!

What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

If we cannot establish a reason for absence, then we may make a welfare home visit.

'Pupils with no absence are over twice as likely to achieve 5 grade 5s and above in their GCSEs'

'There is a clear link between poor attendance at school and lower academic achievement.'

Students who have very good attendance are more likely to gain 5 or more Level 4 or above GCSEs or equivalent qualifications.

90% of young people with absence rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs!!!

Our target for school attendance is

96%

ATTENDANCE

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

Children are required to be in school every day. If you are unable to send your child to school, you must inform the school as soon as possible. Please inform the school of any absence.

How do YOU measure up?

Absence	Days	Weeks	Lessons
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
95%	9 Days	2 Weeks	30 Lessons
90%	19 Days	4 Weeks	100 Lessons
85%	29 Days	6 Weeks	150 Lessons
80%	38 Days	8 Weeks	200 Lessons
75%	48 Days	10 Weeks	250 Lessons
70%	57 Days	13 Weeks	290 Lessons
65%	67 Days	15 Weeks	340 Lessons

89% & Below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

95%-90%
Cause for concern

100%-96%
Excellent



Kindness, Inclusivity,
Community

The greater your attendance,

The greater your
achievement.

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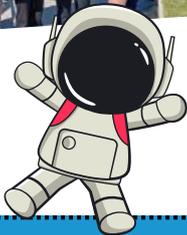
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The Aspirations NASA trip provides a focal point for our educational ethos and underpins our key values of self worth, engagement and purpose. Providing our students with real life experience of using and developing further their skills and competences.

The aim of this visit is for the students to experience and understand what it is like to be working at the frontier of science, and to meet the engineers, scientists and astronauts who will take humanity to the moon, Mars and beyond.

Through reflecting on past successes and failures and looking to the future technologies the study visit aims to inspire the participants into aspirational thinking and redefining their own futures. Indeed as part of this trip we visited Rice university where we attended lectures and enjoyed a tour. This has directly led to students applying for and attending Rice university for their degrees, something they would have never thought possible without this experience. The students had a fantastic time and experience on this trip!



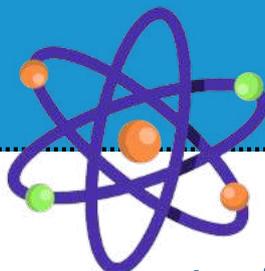
Futures Institute - what we have done this term.

All of Year 7 and year 8 had free tickets to see Puss in Boots The Last Wish at the Light in Banbury. The film has the theme of teamwork and resilience. The teamwork skills was explore in mentor time with Year 7 who are working on their Aspire award.

Futures year 9 had an exciting couple of hours in a STEM challenge workshop sponsored by PPMA up in their temporary classroom in Wykham Theatre.

PPMA is the trade association for the processing, packaging machinery association and PPMA BEST is their charity established to encourage young people to enter and develop a career in engineering within the processing, packaging, robotics, automation and industrial vision supply industries.

The session included engaging videos on robotics and presentations from engineers in industry. The students were set a challenge to build a roller loader which basically meant a way of moving a marble as slowly as possible. PPMA provided a strictly limited set of resources that the students had to use. A highly enjoyable challenge.



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Year 9 Futures were visited by Red Cross on Friday 3rd November to do a workshop on Empathy and migration. This was a very timely workshop considering the issues in the middle east and Ukraine at the moment. Futures is a welcoming school with students who have origins in many different countries our vision is to form an inclusive community. " The school is highly inclusive. Pupils have a strong understanding of equality and respect, and want to ensure all new pupils feel welcome as soon as they join." Ofsted 2023 The red cross workshop explores types of migration, reasons why people may have to leave home and helps students to develop empathy for migrants' motives for moving. By using and exploring people's stories and experiences, we can help students challenge assumptions and improve their understanding of their community to build mutual respect. and here is the link to the guardian article <https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/education/banbury-students-learn-about-refugees-and-asylum-seekers-during-visit-from-red-cross-4405742>



Staff and students enjoyed celebrating Children in Need & Odd Socks at Futures on the 17th November



The 6th to 10th November was Green Careers and Engineering week. Future's pupils engaged with the STEM Hub and listened to talks on Careers associated with river management and the Year 10s heard from a young female engineer in McLaren Automotive, which is a creator of luxury, high-performance supercars. The talk provided an overview of how the automotive industry can continue to thrive while embracing changing technologies as McLaren have been pioneers of performance and innovation. This also included an insight into Anushka's journey through choosing to study engineering and her experiences of working in this exciting industry. This kind of Employability awareness is a key part of Futures careers development and is recognised by Ofsted " Students are exceptionally well supported in formulating plans for their future." Ofsted 2023

Ada Lovelace Day is an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths. To celebrate, RAL hosted a hybrid (online and in-person) computing challenge day for classes of students from Year 8 or 9.

The event was designed to introduce students to the excitement of computing - teams were given which were (top secret!) challenge and the students spent the day using Arduinos and computer programming to find a solution.

The day also included a behind-the-scenes tour of the scientific computing facilities (in-person for those on site, virtual for those joining us online), as well as a short careers talk.

After an introduction, students were introduced to their mentors, who helped and supported the teams throughout the day. During this event, each class worked with mentors from Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.



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