Woodbrook Vale School

WOODBROOK VALE

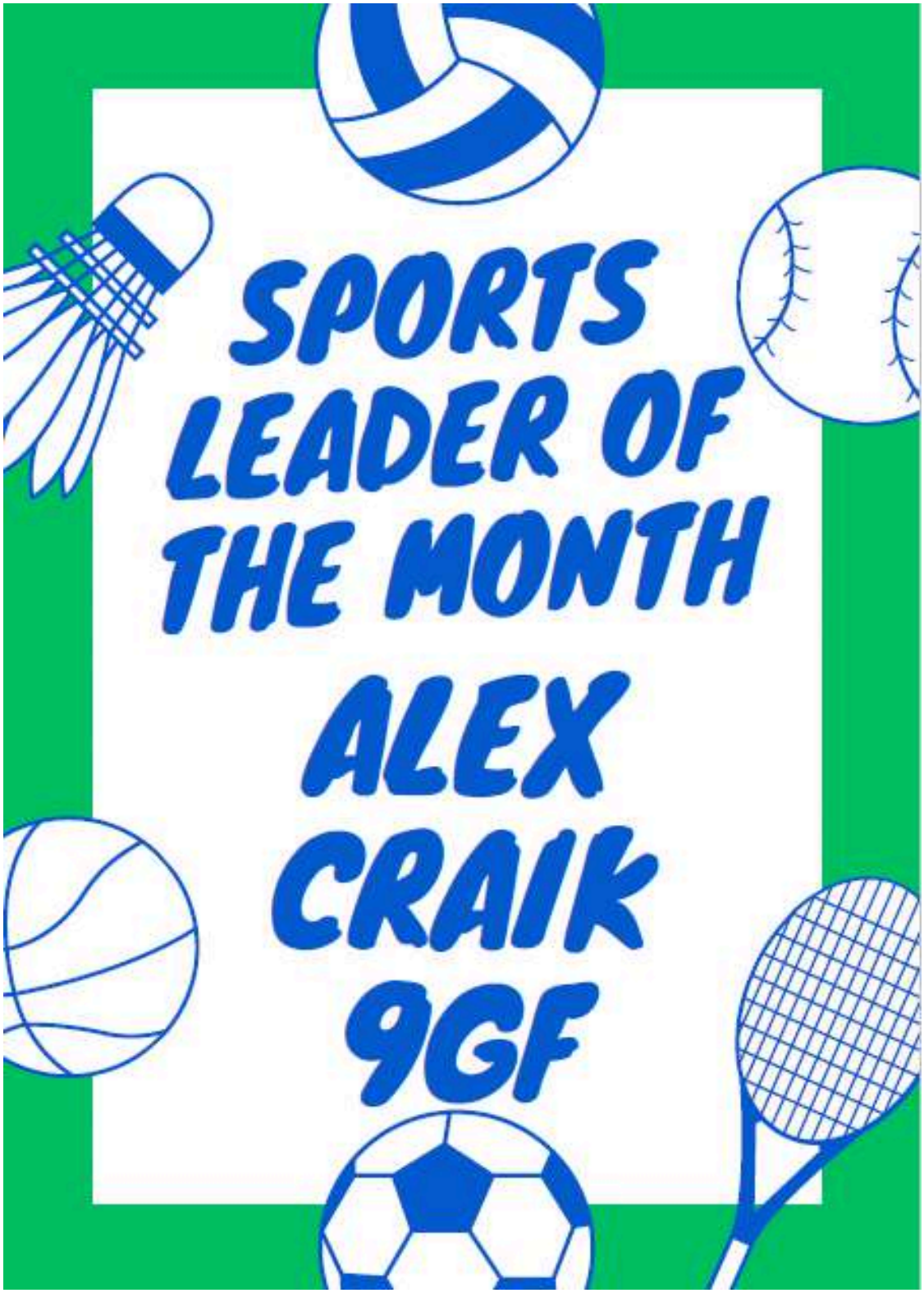
2026/2027

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

Please visit our school website for more information

Year 8 Parents Evening	Thursday 26th November
Inset Day	Friday 27th November
Year 8 Rewards Trip - Slick City	Monday 7th December
Winter Showcase	Thursday 10th December
Ski Information Evening	Wednesday 16th December
Year 11 Winter Wonderland	Thursday 17th December



Alex has been an extremely reliable member of the team, he's always present at meetings and training sessions (and is always one of the first to arrive!), and brings plenty of ideas to the group. He is very knowledgeable about sports leadership and his contributions are well thought out and respected by his peers enabling great discussions and progress to be made. He displays passion and enthusiasm for his role and undertakes his responsibilities seriously and to the best of his ability. Well done Alex!

Woodbrook Vale School

GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts

On Wednesday 28th October 2026, GCSE Drama and BTEC Performing Arts students travelled to Leicester's Curve Theatre for an evening performance of Willy Russell's sensational show 'Blood Brothers' which successfully ran in the West End for 24 years (making it the third longest-running musical in West End history).

The performance, starring Vivienne Carlyle (an established name in theatre circles with well-known roles in timeless Andrew Lloyd Webber classics such as the Narrator in 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' as well as Grizabella in 'Cats' amongst her repertoire) was met with rapturous applause throughout the auditorium as well as standing ovations from a full house (something the show has built up a reputation for) resulting in no less than SIX encores (which is the highest amount on record for Mrs Hopkinson).

As ever, our students were exemplary throughout and it was a privilege to share this special moment with them. Amongst the laughter and tears (mostly Mrs Hopkinson's), a wonderful time was had by all, making the trip a clear success since both Year 10 and 11 Drama and Performing Arts students will, no doubt, have secured a deeper understanding and appreciation of this set text which is guaranteed to benefit their studies in the future as well as imbue them with a never-to-be-forgotten experience.

Thank you to everyone on the trip for making us proud and for being such an asset to the school.

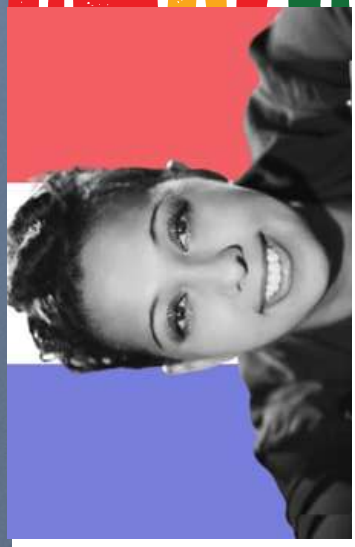
Thank you, also, to parents and carers for supporting opportunities like these which provide lifelong memories to treasure.

An additional special 'thank you' to Winsons for providing such a lovely bus driver.

(And apologies to Ms Palmer and Ms Bull – who were unable to escape us on their night out to the theatre.)

Woodbrook Vale School

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



YEAR 8 FRENCH COMPETITION

Congratulations to Shrihari who won the competition with a very engaging and well researched presentation about Josephine Baker, the renowned actress who supported the French Resistance Movement and Civil Rights in America as well as raising a Rainbow Tribe of children of varied ethnicities.

Well done to the runners up Isabelle, Hana, Isla, Poppy and Ariyella who made a fun video showing their knowledge.
Fiona

Year 11 Speaking Mocks

The speaking mocks start on November 19th . There are several parts to the exam some of which students can prepare in the supervised preparation time just before.
Students should however be learning all their conversation answers from the following topics as they could be asked about any of them:

Identity and Relationships
Healthy Living
Education and Work
Free time activities
Customs and Festivals
Celebrity Culture

In addition this will serve as revision for the writing exam as the same topics are covered.

There is intervention after school on a Tuesday or students can see their teacher for an individual or small group slot, even 15 minutes on a regular basis will make a huge difference. The most effective learning methods include being tested by someone (you do not need to be able to speak the language to do this !).

MFL department

Woodbrook Vale School

JEWELLERY SPOTLIGHT

Nail varnish, including **acrylic or gel nails** are **not appropriate** for school and should not be worn.

One pair of stud earrings is permissible. Apart from this, for safety and security reasons, jewellery, including **bracelets, necklaces, rings and nose, face, body or oral jewellery should not be worn in school.**

On PE days students should only wear the Woodbrook Vale PE Hoodie. Black Shorts should be of an acceptable length, or Black Tracksuit Bottoms, **and all jewellery be removed**.

If such jewellery is worn students will be expected to remove it. It may be confiscated and students and/or parents/carers will be informed when it can be collected.

Homework Club

Looking for a quiet and supportive space to get your homework done? Come along to the Homework Club in the school library every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 PM. Open to students from all year groups, the Homework Club is the perfect place to focus on your assignments, study, or catch up on work. There's no obligation to stay for the entire hour—drop in for as long as you need! Whether you're looking for a peaceful environment to concentrate or need some guidance with your tasks, the Homework Club is here

Woodbrook Vale School
BOOK NOW
Woodbrook Vale School
Winter
SHOWCASE
Thursday 10th December
Doors Open 5pm
Performance starts 5:30pm
Running time:
1hr 15minutes
£1 per ticket
(Limited availability -purchase via ParentPay)
Yr11 Drama, Yr10 Performing Arts, Year 10 Dance, Year 10 Instrumental Solo, KS3 Drama Club, Whole School Production snippet, Year 7 Instrumental Solo
www.wbvs.co.uk
office@wbvs.co.uk
01509 557560

Take a look...

Linguascope is a great website for revising content covered in class by playing the games. There is an addition "construction of sentences" section which is more challenging. Why not challenge yourself to learn one of the other langauges over the summer ? the linguasope password had been changed

username = woodbrook
password = cultural20

We are pleased to share that Woodbrook Vale has been selected for the Tesco Fruit and Veg schools grant program starting from the 3rd August to Nov 2026, you can support our project by blue token in selected Tesco's Stores.
Our project is creating a sensory garden designed with students; supporting wellbeing, inclusion, multi-sensory learning and responsibility.

Please remember us when leaving the local Tesco stores.

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

THANK YOU

Everyone who has helped with the Blue tokens for our sensory garden,
Keep up the great work, we have till Nov 30th 2026 for the final count !

Go 4 Schools

As part of our commitment to inform parents/carers about students' progress whilst at Woodbrook Vale, we have Go 4 Schools an on-line internet based package that allows you to access your child's timetable as well as, attendance, homework and behaviour data.
Parents follow this link: https://www.go4schools.com/parents/
This information is also available through the Go 4 Schools Mobile App which can be downloaded from the App Store and Google Play

.

If your require help to set up your account please contact Julia Perry on 01509 557560 ext 1044 or jperry@wbvs.co.uk

Free school meals information

Leicestershire County Council

Science Conundrum of the Week

In physics what is 'grip'?

Last Weeks Answer

What is an Isotope - Atoms of the same element that have the same number of protons and electrons, but a different number of neutrons. Their chemical properties are identical as these depend on the electrons and their arrangement, but their physical properties will be slightly different due to the different number of neutrons.

Woodbrook Vale School

INTERVENTIONS

Year 11 Intervention Programme – Autumn 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunch	Science	Science	Science History		
Afterschool	Maths	MFL / Creative Science		English / iMedia	Geography

Teachers will inform you if you have been invited to interventions

Tuesdays: History / MFL / Creative will take priority

SCIENCE

YR 11 AFTERSCHOOL REV		Triple Room	Combined Room
TUESDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER	Phys	25	25
TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER	Bio	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER	Chem	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER	Bio	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER	Phys	25	Lab 1
TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER	Chem	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 27TH OCTOBER	Phys		25
TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER	Bio	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER	Chem	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER	Phys	25	25
TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER	Bio	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER	Chem	Lab 1	Lab 3
TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER	Phys	25	25

YR 11 Science Lunchtime Revision STARTS 12.25 prompt		
	TRIPLE	COMBINED
MONDAY	PHYSICS ROOM 25	
TUESDAY	CHEMISTRY LAB 1	CHEMISTRY ROOM
WEDNESDAY	BIOLOGY LAB 3	BIOLOGY ROOM 24

Woodbrook Vale School

SPARX MATHS

Your homework. Your progress. Your success.

COMPLETION RATE

91%

Keep up the great work!

Consolidate your learning from lessons and earn A points!

Woodbrook Vale School

288,709

questions answered correctly in Sparx Maths so far this year

Sparx Maths

sparxmaths.com

Woodbrook Vale School

Students in your school have completed

2,175 hours

of personalised learning on Sparx Maths this year!

Sparx Maths

sparxmaths.com

STUCK? TRY THESE FIRST

Watch the help video • Write down your working out • Ask for help in school

GET SUPPORT IN SCHOOL

MONDAY	TUESDAY	TUES, WEDS, THURS
Lunchtime	Lunchtime	After school
Room 13	Room 14	Library • Homework Club

Woodbrook Vale School

Sports Fixtures: Autumn 2

Boys Basketball

Year 11
Wednesday 18th November

Year 10
Tuesday 24th November

Year 9
Thursday 26th November

Year 8
Wednesday 2nd December

Year 7
Thursday 3rd December

Table Tennis

U13 Boys & U13 Girls
Thursday 5th November

U16 Boys & U16 Girls
Thursday 12th November

Boys Futsal

Year 7
Tuesday 8th December

Year 8 & 9
Tuesday 15th December

Girls Basketball

KS4
Tuesday 17th November

Year 9
Thursday 19th November

Year 8
Wednesday 25th November

Year 7
Tuesday 1st December

Please ensure you are returning any borrowed sports kit to the PE office as soon as possible after your fixture so they can be washed ready for other teams to wear.

Woodbrook Vale Sports Clubs

Day	Club	Year Group	Time	Location
Monday	Girls Badminton	KS3	12:25-1pm	Sports Hall
	Volleyball	All years	3-4pm	Sports Hall
	Girls Football	All years	3-4pm	Field
Tuesday	Basketball	All years	12:25-1pm	Sports Hall
	Netball	All years	3-4pm	Ball court
Wednesday	Table Tennis	All years	12:25-1pm	Gym
Thursday	Badminton	Year 10	12:25-1pm	Sports Hall
Friday	Badminton	Year 11	12:25-1pm	Sports Hall

Woodbrook Vale School

CAREERS

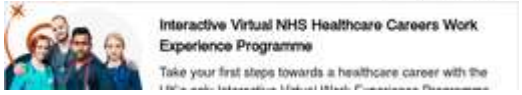
VIRTUAL NHS CAREERS EVENT FOR YEARS 10 & 11

This Sunday - 1st November, 9.30 - 5pm (cost £15).

Take your first steps towards a healthcare career with the UK's only Interactive Virtual Work Experience Programme created and delivered by healthcare professionals.

During the unique work experience day, students will follow two patients involved in a Road Traffic Collision from their initial presentation to recovery, observing healthcare professionals as they interact with the patients and each other. Students will have an opportunity to ask questions and gain knowledge - helping them discover whether a career in healthcare could be right for them.

Sign up to this and other opportunities here:



POST 16 OPEN DAYS

Charnwood College - Wednesday 4th November 5-7pm

Rawlins Academy Sixth Form - Saturday November 14th 9:45am to 12:30pm

Melton Ignite - Tuesday 17th November

WORK EXPERIENCE AND INTERNSHIPS

For students seeking work experience or future internships JutJut is a useful platform. Some work experience is virtual and it includes for example medical placements for those looking to study medicine, there are also taster sessions for certain subjects at Oxford or Cambridge.

JutJut

Join De Montfort University's free National Saturday Club in Fashion & Business

Woodbrook Vale School

'OFF AND AWAY'

Beginning on Monday, June 29, 2026, education in England has changed under new government-imposed rules.

The Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 mandates that all state-funded schools create a completely phone-free environment during school hours. We wholeheartedly agree that the pressure of social media and constant connectivity is harmful to young people's focus and attention for learning.

Woodbrook Vale School operates an 'Off and Away' policy. This relies on students having a school bag in which to put their switched off phone. They can use it on their journey to and from school but not whilst on the school site.

Any student who has the phone in a pocket or on their person is breaking the school rule of 'Off and Away' and will have to hand the phone in for collection by the parent. Please have the necessary conversations in families to make sure our young people have understood the message.

Education - The Mirror

Most people in the UK stay in education until the age of 18, with nearly half of 17-30 year olds going on to Higher Education. The coalition government made the controversial decision bring student fees up to £9,000.

Daily Mirror

Free ADHD Support for Parents/Carers, Children and Young People

For families living in Leicestershire County

Workshops for parents / carers of children and young people under 19

Suitable for any stage of the ADHD journey, **THRIVE** workshops focus on understanding ADHD and applying this knowledge to real life struggles.

Workshops for children and young people under 19 who have an ADHD diagnosis

THRIVE workshops help children and young people to understand what ADHD means for them.

Peer Support Groups for parents / carers

CONNECT groups are held monthly in each borough or district of the County, and are suitable for any stage of the ADHD journey. Meet other families, learn and share with people who 'get it'.

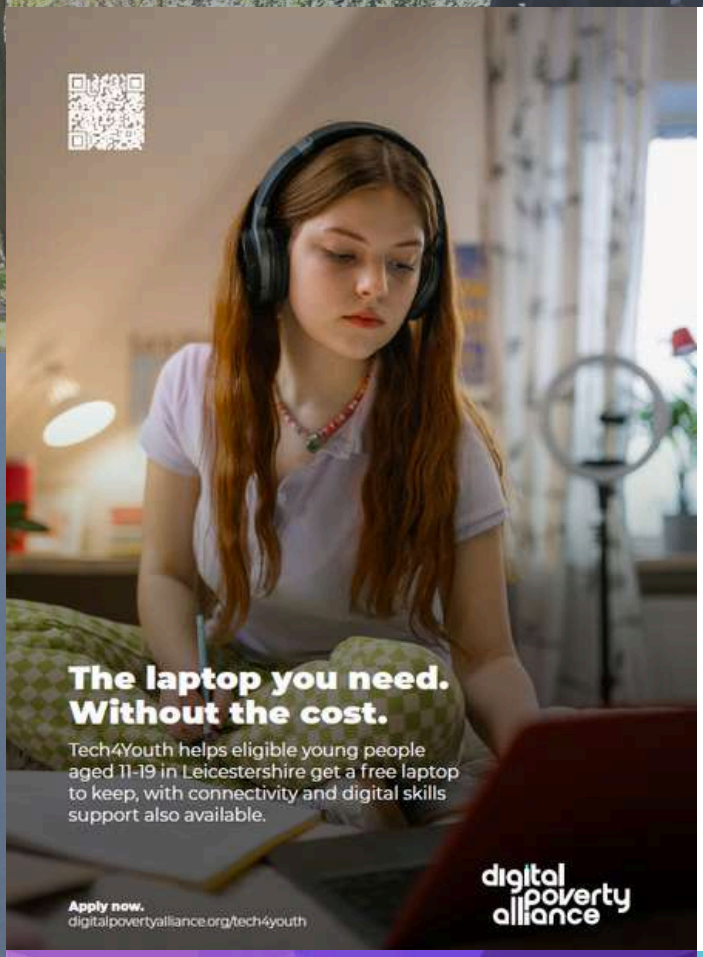
Scan this QR code or visit our website to find out more and book your place

headsupleicester.org.uk/ADHD

Leicestershire County Council

HEADS UP
Supporting families through life's challenges

Woodbrook Vale School


The laptop you need.
Without the cost.
Tech4Youth helps eligible young people aged 11-19 in Leicestershire get a free laptop to keep, with connectivity and digital skills support also available.
Apply now.
digitalpovertyalliance.org/tech4youth
digital poverty alliance

Access to the digital world is now an essential part of everyday life.

From school and college work to applying for jobs, building skills and staying connected, having access to the right technology can make a real difference.

Tech4Youth supports young people aged 11-19 in Leicestershire who do not have access to a suitable laptop at home. If your application is successful, you will receive a free laptop of your own, with connectivity and digital skills support also available.

A laptop that is yours to keep

There is nothing to return and no rental agreement. The laptop belongs to you and can be used at home for education, looking for work, developing your skills or anything else you need a laptop for.

Who can apply

You must be aged 11-19, live in Leicestershire and not currently have access to a suitable laptop at home.

If you are aged 16-19, you can apply directly. If you are under 16, a parent or caregiver must apply on your behalf.

A teacher, youth worker, councillor or another trusted professional will also need to verify that you would benefit from receiving a laptop.

Resources are limited, so meeting the eligibility criteria and having your application verified does not guarantee a laptop.

Apply online

digitalpovertyalliance.org/tech4youth

Prefer a paper form?

Text **T4Y**, followed by your name, street address and postcode, to **07984 445 476** to request an application form by post.

Digital Poverty Alliance | Registered Office: 3rd Floor, 86-90 Paul Street, London EC2A 4NE | Registered Company No. 5995044 | Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1098206 | Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC038878 | Registered Company in the Isle of Man No. 008329 | Registered Charity in the Isle of Man No. 1381

Digital Poverty Alliance

For 25 years, the Digital Poverty Alliance has worked across the UK to tackle digital poverty and help more people access the technology they need.

As a national charity, we combine practical programmes with research, partnerships and advocacy to address barriers including access to devices, connectivity, digital skills and support.

Tech4Youth is part of that work, helping young people access the technology and skills they need for education, employment and everyday life.

More than a laptop

Tech4Youth is designed to give young people more than access to a device. Alongside a laptop to keep, the programme can provide connectivity and support to build digital skills, helping young people make fuller use of the technology available to them.

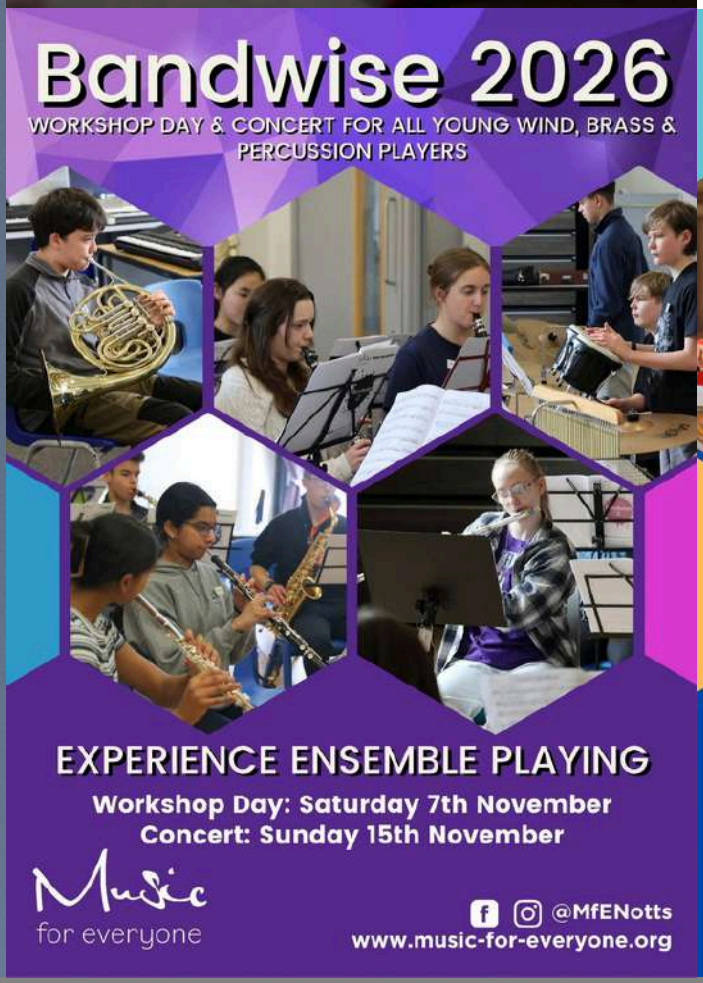
Leicestershire

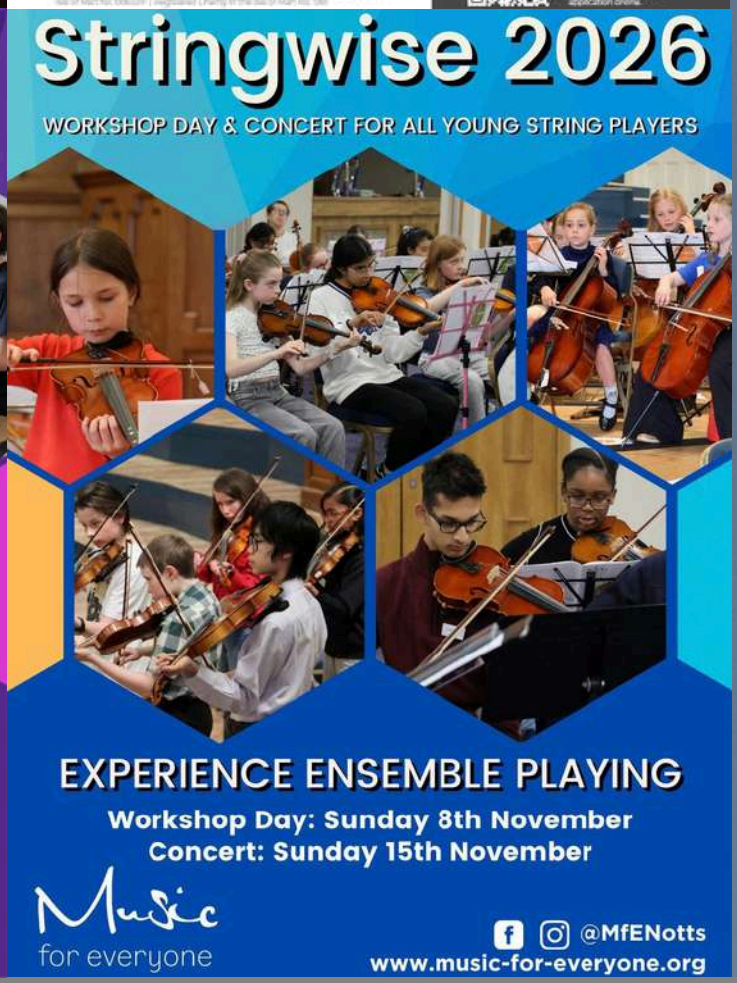
Tech4Youth is open to eligible young people aged 11-19 living in Leicestershire who do not have access to a suitable laptop at home.

Through our partnership with the Barratt Redrow Foundation, more than 150 young people in Leicestershire have already received laptops, with the programme continuing to support more young people across the county.

Scan the QR code to learn more about Tech4Youth and apply for a laptop.

Check your eligibility, read the terms and conditions and start your application online.


Bandwise 2026
WORKSHOP DAY & CONCERT FOR ALL YOUNG WIND, BRASS & PERCUSSION PLAYERS
EXPERIENCE ENSEMBLE PLAYING
Workshop Day: Saturday 7th November
Concert: Sunday 15th November
Music for everyone
@MfENotts
www.music-for-everyone.org


Stringwise 2026
WORKSHOP DAY & CONCERT FOR ALL YOUNG STRING PLAYERS
EXPERIENCE ENSEMBLE PLAYING
Workshop Day: Sunday 8th November
Concert: Sunday 15th November
Music for everyone
@MfENotts
www.music-for-everyone.org

2026 DATES (Saturdays)

Race 1: Saturday 3 October 2026
Race 2: Saturday 31 October 2026
Race 3: Saturday 28 November 2026

VENUE

Herewoode Academy
Glenfield Road, Leicester LE3 6DN
(New College Leicester site)

OPEN TO

All primary and secondary schools in Leicestershire & Rutland

ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

It's about participation, perseverance and personal bests!

ENTRIES NOW OPEN

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ENTER

HEALTHIER CHILDREN | STRONGER SCHOOLS | BRIGHTER COMMUNITIES

RUN FOR LIFE LEAGUE 2026

runforlifeleague2026@outlook.com

Running today for a brighter tomorrow

Woodbrook Vale School

NHS Guidance

Sometimes it can be difficult to know whether your child is too ill to attend school. NHS guidance says it's fine to send them in with a minor cough or common cold, as long as they don't have a temperature – we will keep an eye on them.

See NHS guidance sheet 'Is my child too ill for school'

Is my child too ill for school?

UK Government NHS

Does your child have a high temperature (38°C or more)? YES Keep them off school until it goes away. NO Follow the guidance below.

Your child can usually go to school with a mild cough or cold if they are otherwise well. If you do keep your child at home, it's important to phone the school or nursery on the first day and give them the reason.

Should go in	Should go in (let the school know)	Seek treatment before returning to school	Keep them off (at first)
A cough, cold or sore throat Fine with slight cough or common cold symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat or headache, as long as they're otherwise well and do not have a high temperature.	**Cold sores** Encourage them not to touch the blister or kiss anyone while they have the cold sore, or to share things like cups and towels.	**Impetigo** They'll need treatment from a pharmacist or GP, often with antibiotics. Keep them off school until all the sores have crusted over and healed, or for 48 hours after they start antibiotic treatment. Encourage your child to wash their hands regularly and not to share things like towels and cups with other children at school.	**Ear infection** If your child has an ear infection and a high temperature or severe earache, keep them off school until they're feeling better or their high temperature goes away.
Threadworms Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend a treatment.	**Conjunctivitis** Fine unless they are feeling very unwell. Seek advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.	**Ringworm** See your pharmacist unless it's on their scalp, in which case you should see a GP. It's fine for your child to go to school once they have started treatment.	**Measles** They'll need to see a GP. Call the GP surgery before you go in, as measles can spread to others easily. Keep your child off school for at least 4 days from when the rash first appears. They should also avoid close contact with babies and anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system.
	Head lice & nits You can treat head lice and nits without seeing a GP.	**Scarlet fever** They'll need treatment with antibiotics from a GP. Otherwise they'll be infectious for 2 to 3 weeks. Your child can go back to school 24 hours after starting antibiotics.	**Vomiting & diarrhoea** Stay away from school until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea due to illness for at least 2 days (48 hours).
	Hand, foot & mouth disease If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.	**Chickenpox** Keep them off school until all the spots have crusted over. This is usually about 5 days after the spots first appeared.	
	Slapped cheek syndrome Once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious. Let the school or teacher know if you think your child has slapped cheek syndrome.		

Feeling worried or anxious: It's normal for any of us to feel worried sometimes. We may get a tummy ache or headache, or have problems eating or sleeping. Avoiding school can sometimes make a child's worries about going to school worse. If your child is struggling, please speak to school as soon as possible to explore available help. If your child is still struggling and it's affecting their everyday life, you should contact GP or school nurse.

To find out more, search www.NHS.uk for the specific illness or infection, or 'Is my child too ill for school?'

Woodbrook Vale School

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools

NHS
Leicestershire Partnership
NHS Trust

Looking for NHS advice on mental health for teenagers?

Find information, advice and support on mental health and emotional wellbeing on the Health for Teens website.

To be referred for mental health support, speak to your teacher or mental health lead.

Find more support at:

www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk/

bit.ly/YouandYourMentalHealth

HEALTH FOR TEENS

Woodbrook Vale School

How Parents Can Access This Support:
Families do not need a school referral to access these specific early intervention programmes.
Parents can self-refer directly by visiting the NHS LLR Self-Referral Portal which can be accessed from our website The Early Intervention Service (EIS) | The Relationships Centre - Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland

Early Intervention Service

Emotional wellbeing and therapeutic support for children and young people, and their parents/carers, living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

Flourish

Our Flourish groupwork programme is for children and young people aged 8-17. It aims to equip young people with a better understanding of mental and emotional health, coping strategies and emotional resilience through a range of creative and engaging interventions.

The programme runs for 6-8 weeks, groups are separated by age range and tailored to better fit the needs of each age group.

Prosper

Our Prosper programme is a 3-hour Zoom session for parents/ carers of children experiencing anxiety. Our Prosper deliverers support parents to understand anxiety and how they can best support their children and young people to cope better.

Children and Young People's Counselling

A safe space for children and young people aged 8-18 to talk about challenges they're facing one to one with a trained counsellor, and learn better ways of coping.

ADHD support

We offer support to young people and their families where there is diagnosed or suspected ADHD. Our practitioners work with young people to support them in understanding ADHD and how this can impact them in their daily lives, and explore better ways of regulating their emotions. We also offer workshops for parents/ carers, supporting them to understand ADHD and how they can best support their children and young people to cope better.

Heads Up

The service is made up of two organisations: The Relationships Centre and Heads Up, and offers a range of support interventions for children, young people and parents/carers. You can find information on the services offered at Heads Up here: www.headsupleicester.org.uk
To access this, you will need to be assessed and referred by your GP or you can complete a self-referral to see whether The Relationships Centre is the best fit for you: www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk/

The Relationships Centre

Woodbrook Vale School

Mental Health Support Teams in Schools

NHS
Leicestershire Partnership
NHS Trust

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Find information, advice and support on mental health and emotional wellbeing on the Health for Kids website.

To be referred for mental health support, speak to your child's teacher or mental health lead.

Find more support at:

www.myselfreferral-llr.nhs.uk/
bit.ly/MentalHealthForChildren

Health for Kids!