



## Wargrave conquers the outdoors

## CEO Brief



Hello Everyone,

I am delighted to share with you some of the exciting developments from the last year at Wargrave House School.

We have recently acquired two new minibuses, which greatly enhances our ability to provide transportation for our learners and to expand our outdoor education and community-based curriculum. These minibuses will allow us to facilitate more off-site learning experiences, giving our learners the opportunity to engage with the world around them in a safe and supportive environment.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that we have successfully recruited middle leaders, Tom and Caroline have been promoted to support Rebecca and Carl as part of our dedicated Education Leadership Team. Both bring with them a wealth of experience and expertise and we are confident that they will make valuable contributions to the continued success of our school.

As we approach the end of the first full academic year under the leadership of our Head Teacher Carl, we can proudly say that the progress we have made has been Remarkable. Carl has brought a fresh perspective and dedication to our school and we are thrilled with the positive changes that have taken place under his guidance. In July some of our Key Stage 3 and 4 learners recently participated in a residential trip to Bendrigg. I popped up to join in the fun and the feedback we received from both learners and staff was overwhelmingly positive. It was heart-warming to see everyone return home tired but full of joy and happy memories. We are committed to providing the best possible learning opportunities for all children at Wargrave House School and we are excited about the future as we continue to grow and evolve as an organisation.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership, wishing you a fabulous summer break and we look forward to seeing you all in September.

Together we are Remarkable

Best regards,

Robin Bush



## Head Teacher Brief



Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of the School Community,

As we reach the end of the academic year, and my first at Wargrave, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support. Your involvement and encouragement have been invaluable, and together, we have navigated the year successfully.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work done by all our staff. Their dedication and commitment have been integral to providing our students with a rich and supportive learning environment. Their willingness to go above and beyond has resulted in a rich range of experiences for the learners far beyond what they have accessed previously. We have undertaken an extensive revision and enhancement of the curriculum from a single strand to four distinct curriculums designed to allow bespoke delivery for each learner. Please take a look here: <https://www.wargravehouse.com/education/>

This year has been filled with memorable trips and visits that have greatly enriched our learners' experiences. Looking ahead, we are excited about our new partnership with The Puddle Project. This initiative will see Learning Outside the Classroom (LOT) interwoven into our curriculum, providing unique and engaging learning opportunities. I encourage you to visit our website, where you can find detailed accounts and photos of these activities here: <https://www.wargravehouse.com/learning-outside-the-classroom/>

A highlight of our year was the successful Bendrigg residential. It was a wonderful experience for all involved, and we are eager to expand this opportunity next year. We believe that such experiences are crucial for personal growth and development.

Finally, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming our learners back on 4<sup>th</sup> September, ready for another year of growth and achievement.

Best wishes,  
Carl Glennon  
Head Teacher



## Bendrigg Residential: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July

Some of our KS3 and KS4 students were able to go away on our first school residential to the Bendrigg Trust in the Kendal area of the Lake District. For some of our learners this was their first time being away from home.

The learners were a credit to the school, and their parents, as they joined in with many activities that they have never had the chance to do before.

Zipline, canoeing, lighting a fire, indoor cave walking, abseiling and archery to name a few. We look forward to more trips like this in the future.



# Outdoor Learning

A lot of focus has been paid to outdoor learning in the last two terms over the entire school. We have taken all the learners out of their comfort zones and encouraged them to explore the wilds, lakes, cliffs and gorges to name but a few! Many of our learners did not like the thought of going in the water but joined in with canoeing and gorge walking and really enjoyed it.

Our teachers have seen your children grow in confidence and resiliency over this period



# Therapy

We've had a very busy term working with all of the learners across school. This term our sessions have included focus on:

**Interoception curriculum**  
**Gestalt language processing**  
**Makaton signing**  
**Self advocacy**  
**Team work**  
**Regulation**

We have also enjoyed celebrating Autism Acceptance and running training and parent workshops.

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer holidays and we will see you again in September.



**sundial**  
developing independent autistic lives

**We are now on Instagram**  
**@sundialtherapy**

# RISE 1



As well as our outdoor learning RISE 1 have really enjoyed their walk around Liverpool. Even though it wasn't the best day for it everyone had a good time splashing in some muddy puddles and walking carefully through others.



## RISE 2

RISE 2 have enjoyed their outdoor learning but a trip to the Quirky Corner in Liverpool really turned our heads! RISE 2 went to the Quirky Quarter in Liverpool today. We explored different illusions, puzzling challenges like a mirror maze and they really enjoyed the DJ booth!

We got stuck on the kitchen ceiling!





# RISE 3

RISE 3 have had lots of fun this term!

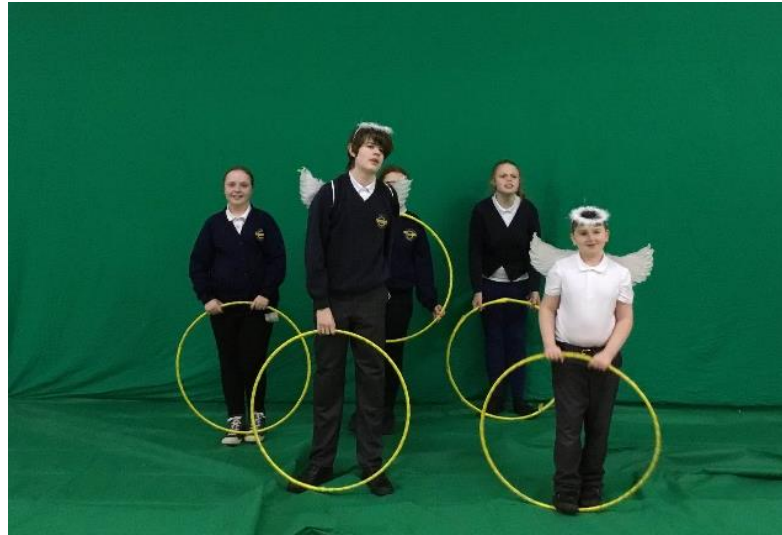
We have particularly enjoyed rock climbing and visiting The Puddle Project.

We have had the opportunity to explore these new outdoor environments whilst building confidence and resilience.



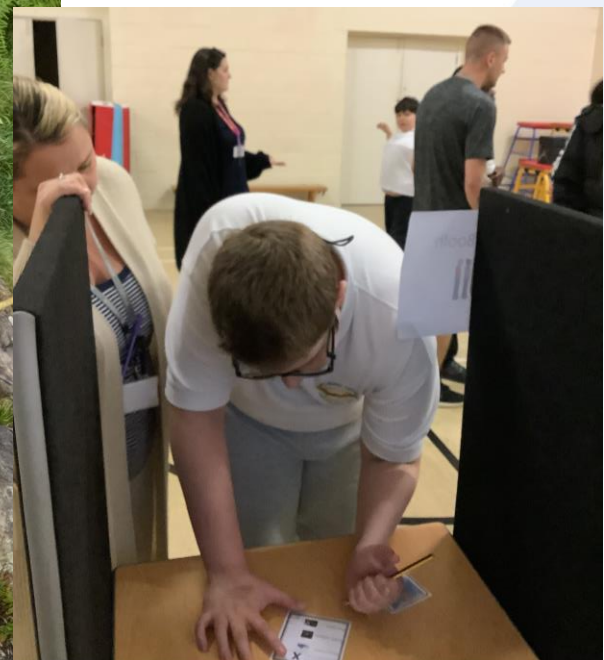
# BASE 1

BASE 1 have had the best year together. We have welcomed new faces and been out and about practising our skills. BASE 1 have enjoyed visiting the cinema for our Christmas trip, where we watched the new Willy Wonka! We also had our learners featured in the Christmas nativity video as 'Five Gold Rings', they all did so well! We have been outdoors a lot this year, including canoeing, gorge walking, archery and rock climbing. Of course we have enjoyed some trips to the park, including Tatton Park as our end of year trip as a group. There have been new friendships develop over the year, and our group have supported their friend Florence during World Diabetes Day! Great work BASE 1!



# BASE 2

Outdoor learning and The Puddle Project were highlights of our class this term. We've worked on building our confidence. We were lucky enough to have the gym set up as a voting area on 4<sup>th</sup> July so we could practice the voting process for our future lives.



# BASE 3

We have had an amazing year in BASE 3. We have made great friendships and have learnt so much about ourselves and others. We have developed our resilience by taking part in a range of adventurous activities and excelled in our curriculum learning. We have enjoyed our external visits to various places including Chester Zoo, pumpkin picking, the Warrington art gallery and museum, pizza hut, gorge walking, rafted canoeing, rock climbing, community centre, library, Pennington Flash and Formby beach. We have enjoyed exploring the snow, water fights, gardening, running the class names election, launching the school bank and shop and taking part in themed days such as the Careers fair, Autism Awareness Day, World book day, Children in Need and Tudor day.



# BASE 4



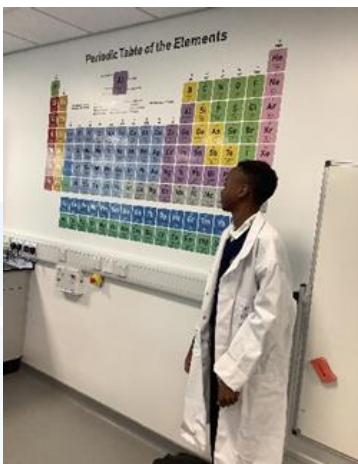
BASE 4 have thrived within the outdoor adventurous education curriculum and have loved attending the Puddle Project. The learners have developed positive relationships between each other and friendships have been created. We have attended education visits at Manchester Museum and Delamere forest, learning about Science.



# BASE 5



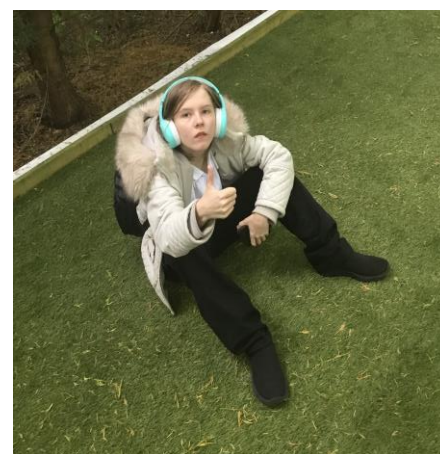
BASE 5 have enjoyed visiting a variety of colleges to explore future options. We have had an amazing time visiting Ryecroft farm looking after the animals in a variety of ways and doing maintenance around the farm. BASE 5 have worked extremely well at Hook and Jab boxing club and they have gained their ASDAN Coaching award. We also took part in a variety of activities during our sessions at the Puddle Project.



# BASE 6

A busy half-term in BASE 6 when our Year 11 learners have been completing their qualifications in maths, English and BTEC Vocational Units. Others have made great progress to ensure they're ready for next year! We have represented KS4 at Student Council meetings discussing important issues about school life and events. Learners have completed their outdoor learning activities for this year: rock-climbing and abseiling and are looking forward to more of this next year.

Learners have visited Myerscough College, West Lancashire College and Chester University - learning about future opportunities as part of their Careers experience. Great fun was had in the Tudor workshop - lots of dressing up and acting, learning about Henry VIII's many wives, along with designing family crests. More time outdoors - work experience at the farm - measuring grass, herding sheep to new pasture and setting up fences. Learners have had a fantastic time at our new facility The Puddle Project: treasure hunting, pond-dipping and designing a themed golf course. More 'Creepy Crawlies' when the animals/insects came on a visit to school. Exciting day on the 4<sup>th</sup> July when we all took part in the election process casting our votes for new class names for next year - we await the results! One of our Year 10 learners had a fantastic time at Bendrigg Outdoor Centre on the residential trip. All learners enjoyed their end of year reward trip to Dino Golf and McDonalds for lunch.



# BASE 7

This year, we have had lots of different experiences, varying from Gorge walking to Orienteering to Archery.

Our learners have built confidence and resilience by engaging in the varied outdoor learning activities and work experiences.

We have developed our understanding of the world of work through our work experience visits to Pizza Express, Ryecroft Farm and our enterprise week activities. Base 7 won the design a pizza box competition.

Our learners have developed their ability to listen to and respond to instructions in different workplace environments.

They have also extended their problem solving skills by listening to the instructors and workers at these different locations.

We have worked very hard on developing our literacy and numeracy skills through our NCFE essential skills in English and Maths courses. All our Year 10 and 11 learners have successfully completed the units they have studied this year.

We wish our year 11 learners good luck and good bye as they embark on their new learning journeys at college and in the wider community.

We also wish our year 10 learners good luck as they embark on their last year at school.





# BASE 8

BASE 8 have had many trips out travel training and shopping for food for their future life and have practiced resilience. BASE 8 have also enjoyed the outdoor education in archery and at The Puddle Project.



# Time to Say Goodbye

## Learners and Staff

Several of our KS4 learners are moving on to other learning facilities and our big sister Ascent Autism Specialist College. It has been marvellous to watch these learners go from strength to strength while at Wargrave House School and we cannot wait to hear how they are all doing in the future.



We are losing some very special staff to retirement at the end of the current school year. Learners, parents, carers and partners all know Jan who has been an Administrator at Wargrave House for 29 years! We are all going to miss Jan terribly, please join us in wishing her all the best for her retirement but all those who know her will know she will be as busy as ever!

We also say goodbye to our IT Manager Chris Linaker who has been with us for nearly 25 years! Chris started at Wargrave House School as a trainee and worked his way up to IT Manager. Chris has worked tirelessly through the years to make sure we stay online, stay safe online and during COVID was integral for keeping school running at home for our learners and staff. We will miss your quick wit and terrible jokes Chris!



**We wish all our leavers all the luck in the world for their future endeavours**

## Dates For Your Diary

We have some really exciting events planned for in the new year with even more still to be confirmed. Here are some dates for you to look forward to:

### September

2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> School and College Inset days

4<sup>th</sup> School and College re-opens for learners.

**Everyone at Wargrave House, Ascent College and Remarkable Autism wishes you a wonderful summer break and look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2024 when we re-open to learners.**