



GRACE ACADEMY

NEWS

SUMMER 2023

IN THIS ISSUE:

CAREERS

CULTURE DAY

PROM 2023

WARWICK CASTLE

YOUNG CARERS

IMPORTANT DATES 2023/24



Culture Day

It has been great to see many different styles of dress and hear about different cultures and experiences.

Students have been raising money for Cancer Research and the Red Cross, and we thank everyone for contributing to this.

We will continue our culture theme with our Summer Fair on Thursday 6th July.



Young Carers

On Friday 9th June we held a young carers afternoon tea at Grace Academy. This was to celebrate our young carers and their families during National Carers Week. The event gave us the opportunity to invite parents into school to spend time with their child and young carer. We had a really tempting array of food for the families, which was thoroughly enjoyed. A young carer is someone under the age of 18 years old who looks after someone in their family or a friend who is ill, disabled, has a mental health illness or an addiction. There may be as many as 1 in 5 students in schools who are classed as young carers. At Grace Academy, we are working towards the young carers in school award. This is an initiative run by The Children's Society and the aims are:

1: UNDERSTAND 2. INFORM 3. IDENTIFY 4. LISTEN 5. SUPPORT

At Grace Academy, this now includes things like a weekly drop-in to support students as and when needed, a board in the corridor with all support information on for students and staff awareness of young carers. One of our young carers is currently designing a logo for Grace Academy young carers, things like this encourage the students to feel that they are really involved in something that is for them. Young carers can often be hidden due to things such as embarrassment, not realising that they are a young carer, or not wanting to be thought of as different. We are hoping that completing the award will enable more students to seek support if they too are a young carer.

If you feel that this is something that affects your family, please e-mail me at justineclark@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk to discuss further.



Warwick Castle

We are delighted to share with you the remarkable adventure our Year 7 students experienced during their recent trip to Warwick Castle on Tuesday, 13th June. It was a day filled with history, excitement, and captivating events that left a lasting impression on each and every student.



The trip began with a thrilling start as our students were transported back in time to the era of the War of the Roses. The air was charged with anticipation as they witnessed a vivid re-enactment of this historic conflict, complete with knights in shining armour, colourful banners, and the thunderous clash of swords. Our students were completely captivated as they learned about the pivotal battles and key figures of the era, gaining a deeper understanding of this significant chapter in English history.

One of the most memorable aspects of the trip was the Birds of Prey display. Our students were mesmerised by the majestic creatures soaring through the sky with grace and precision. They marvelled at the incredible skills of the falcons, hawks, and owls as they swooped down with astounding speed, showcasing their natural hunting instincts. The students had the opportunity to witness the bond between the birds and their handlers, learning about their unique characteristics and the vital role they played in medieval times. It was an awe-inspiring experience that left our students with a newfound appreciation for these magnificent creatures.

Throughout the day, our students were immersed in the enchanting atmosphere of Warwick Castle. They explored the castle's expansive grounds, taking in the breathtaking views and lush surroundings. From the castle's magnificent Great Hall, adorned with beautiful tapestries and intricate furnishings, to the towering towers that offered panoramic vistas of the Warwickshire countryside, every moment was steeped in history and wonder.

The success of the trip can be attributed not only to the incredible events but also to the positive attitudes and behaviour of our Year 7 students. Their enthusiasm, respect, and eagerness to learn made the day even more enjoyable for everyone involved. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to the staff at Warwick Castle for their warm welcome and seamless organization, ensuring that our students had a safe and memorable experience.

The Year 7 trip to Warwick Castle on Tuesday, 13th June was a resounding success. The events we attended were undeniably the highlights of the day, captivating our students' imagination and fostering a deep appreciation for history and nature. We are immensely proud of our students' positive attitudes and exemplary behaviour throughout the trip, as they made the most of this extraordinary opportunity.



Careers activities 2023 – some highlights

Careers Fair: The academy careers fair provided students with the chance to speak to colleges, employers, universities, and training providers to find out what opportunities are available to school and sixth form leavers. The British Army were one of the organisations who attended the Careers Fair in February and students were able to practise landing an aircraft using a flight simulator. Overall, students enjoyed the session, and some comments from representatives of the organisations included, 'students were well-behaved' and 'asked great questions.'

Careers Week: MSC, in Darlaston supplies engineering products to companies worldwide, came to the academy to talk to a group of students from Years 8, 9 and 10, about the world of work and employer expectations. Students also experienced what it is like to wear protective clothing while working with equipment. The picture on the right is two students competing against each other for the fastest time to place and tighten the nut on the bolt. Students enjoyed the session and one said, 'it allowed me to understand the world of work more.'

Other activities during Careers Week included law, drama, and for Year 7, the RAF Mighty Minds challenge. The Year 7 students had to build and code robots to complete a range of challenges. This photo is one of the winning teams with the facilitator, Antony Hyett.

Year 10 Careers Day: Students were involved in a range of workshops and tried their skills at changing a tyre, working at a crime scene, managing workplace challenges, flying a drone, improving their fitness, pitching a TV programme, taking blood pressures, and so on.



The day concluded with two presentations to the whole year group, one from 4Schools about Big Careers on the Small Screen, and the other from the DWP Support Schools on Post 16-18 choices, explaining what is available to students after Year 11. Feedback from students included 'the day inspired me to make my choices'. Organisations who attended to deliver activities to students were Nova Training, Think Forensic, School of Coding, RAF, 4Schools, and Medical Mavericks, the DWP Support for Schools and the use of Barclays LifeSkills resources.

Careers activities are organised based on student interests, while other activities are provided to raise aspirations, inspire students, help students with getting information on the jobs they are interested in, or to help get career ideas. For further information, please see the Careers page on the academy website.





PROM 2023

The Prom was held on Thursday 22nd June at Bescot Stadium.

Great memories, laughter and tears were shared as we wish our students all the best on their journey ahead!



IMPORTANT DATES 2023/24

Term Starts	04.09.23
Half Term	30.10.23 - 03.11.23
Term Ends	22.12.23
Christmas holidays	25.12.23 - 05.01.24

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts	08.01.24
Half Term	12.02.24 - 16.02.24
Term Ends	22.03.24

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts	08.04.24
Half Term	27.05.24 - 31.05.24
Term Ends	22.07.24

Start dates for all year groups and inset dates will be confirmed. Please check the Academy website for details.