

# Ascent news

Autism Specialist College



## EUROVISION FEVER

Liverpool was the highlight this month. See our individual class pages to find out more.



## CLASSES

LS 1

ASCENT 4

ASCENT 1

ASCENT 2

ASCENT 3

## STUDENT VOICE

A wellbeing afternoon and interviewing teachers.

Read all about it on page

3.



## WE ARE ASCENT

LEAP rebranded on 5th May 2023 to Ascent Autism Specialist College see page 4 for details.





## Dear students, parents and carers,

This is our first newsletter as Ascent 16 - 25 Autism Specialist College, we rebranded from LEAP College and Wargrave Sixth Form on the 5.5.23 with a wonderful celebration jointly with the Coronation day activities. Please do follow us on Facebook at Ascent College and look at our new website [www.ascent.college](http://www.ascent.college) for more information regarding our educational pathways and offers.

It has been a very exciting half term with lots of innovative and creative activities taking place and two of our students winning prestigious awards. Yanick, Ascent 4, won the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland PEACEMAKER Award while Alicia, Ascent 4, won the Rotary YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER award for a lovely piece of work celebrating the ageless beauty of local architecture. Ascent student parliament have also been shortlisted for the Natspec award for Student Voice. The young adults in Ascent college demonstrate incredible resilience, confidence, aspiration and creativity in their day-to-day activities and we are so proud to share these achievements with you.

Across Ascent Autism Specialist College all classes have had the opportunity over the past few weeks to attend the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, where possible, at Quinta. Students and staff have stayed overnight and demonstrated incredible levels of determination, skill building and fun together whilst away. We have students (Alfie, Yanick and Alicia) from Ascent Autism Specialist college working on the 14th and 15th of June at Stratford upon Avon Crowne Plaza hotel for the Natspec Conference. They did a familiarisation day on 16.5.23 and all demonstrated their extensive work place skills to the Natspec and Crowne Plaza hotel teams.

I am beyond proud to share with you all that one of our Ascent students, Courtney, Ascent 2, has completed her Access to HE qualification which is equivalent to three A 'Levels and is now looking to complete a Supported Internship at Little Bears Nursery in Warrington to further develop her employability and lifelong learning skills. I do hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and sharing in our pride over each and every young persons achievements and engagement, if you have any questions about Ascent Autism Specialist College, please don't hesitate to speak to class teachers or email myself, [julietdoherty@ascent.college](mailto:julietdoherty@ascent.college)

**Best wishes, Juliet and staff at Ascent and LS1.**

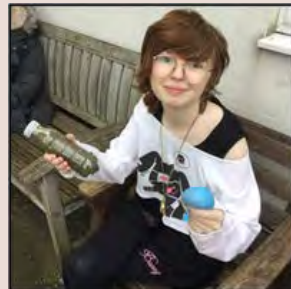




# STUDENT VOICE



The student council followed student feedback to plan a wellbeing afternoon. They wanted to plan an event that would allow all of the different Ascent classes to socialise and spend a relaxing afternoon together. The student council are hoping to plan more of these events in the near future. They planned a group walk, art and craft activities, hand massages, word games and met with the therapy team to plan different sensory trays and activities. They finished the afternoon with a student vs staff penalty shoot out which was a great end to a fantastic afternoon.



The student council have also been involved in the recent teacher interviews. During their last meeting, they worked together to discuss what would be important for them to find out about a new teacher. They formed these into questions and asked them in a student council panel during the interviews. They were very professional and gave important feedback throughout the process.



*The student council took part in the Natspec student parliament on 11th May where they joined with colleges across the country to discuss important issues. They listened to presentations, took part in discussions and expressed their own views articulately.*

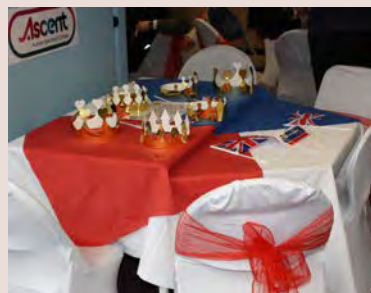


# ASCENT LAUNCH & CORONATION CAFE

On Friday 5th May LEAP College and Wargrave Sixth Form rebranded and became Ascent 16 - 25 Autism Specialist College. The Ascent Launch was celebrated with a coronation tea party in college in the morning with invited guests including our Governors and community partners. Staff and students from school joined us for some coronation day activities including outdoor games organised by our DofE young leader Courtney and assisted by Herbie throughout the morning.



Students and learners dressed in red white and blue to mark the occasion, and the atmosphere was kept electrifying by our entertainer Yanick who played the guitar and sang throughout the event.



The Cosy Corner Cafe team worked very hard to serve up breakfast items to staff, students and visitors.



The morning was a fantastic success and was followed by a wellbeing afternoon ran by the Student Council and therapy team.



# Award Winning Students at Ascent College

On Friday 28th April two of our students won prestigious awards, nominated by The Newton-le-Willows branch Rotary Club. We held a celebration in college for both Alicia and Yanick and their families who nominated them, presented the students with their certificates and awards ahead of the national presentation on Saturday.

Yanick, won the Rotary Great Britain and Ireland PEACEMAKER Award. He attended the Rotary Young Citizen Awards at St. Benedict's High School with his Mum and brother on Saturday, April 29, where he was awarded for his ongoing efforts. The Mayor of St Helens, Councillor Sue Murphy also joined us to congratulate Yanick on his award.



Alicia won the Rotary YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER of the year 2023 award for a lovely piece of work celebrating the ageless beauty of local architecture. The photo she took was of the local Emmanuel Parish church. Of the photo Alicia said:

**"Whenever I think of architecture I think of churches, their old run-down design with how it has looked like it has aged beautifully with time. This helps me remember how something old and worn down with time can become something beautiful with age and things around."**

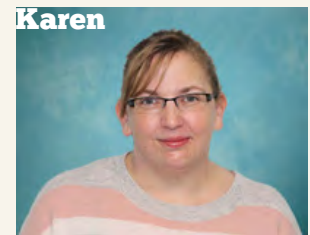
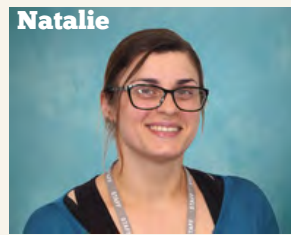


# Information from our SENSE Team

SENSE stands for Special Educational Need Supporting Education

## Parent Networking Morning

We are looking to offer a parent networking morning on the 16th June from 9.30-11.00am. This would be a chance for parents to get together to share knowledge and experiences. This could be around SEND, Direct Payments, Family Fund and addition activities that may be open for your child/young person. Alongside this we will have members of the therapy team and educational staff to answer any questions you may have around the curriculum or therapy support. In the first instance please could you email [karengriffin@wargravehouse.com](mailto:karengriffin@wargravehouse.com) to show your interest in attending and then further details will be communicated once numbers have been established.



## An Important Reminder About Medication

Any medication sent in to school needs to be in the original packaging with a completed parental consent form.

Medication will be sent home at the end of every half term.

We are introducing a receipt system so either yourself, or the escort collecting your child/young person will sign to say they have received this at the end of half term. At the beginning of half term you or the escort will sign to say they have handed it over to school or as and when you send medication in during the term time.

If you have any queries around medication contact

**[KirstyBrown@wargravehouse.com](mailto:KirstyBrown@wargravehouse.com)**



We know children love spending time outdoors, whether in the garden, park or beach, however, their skin is more delicate than an adult's and can easily be damaged by the sun, even when it doesn't seem strong.

# SUN SAFETY



Use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 50 and at least 4 stars for UVA protection.



Wear sunglasses, ideally with wrap around lenses or wide arms, which carry CE and British Standard marks.



Reapply every two hours or immediately after swimming or sweating.

No sunscreen offers 100% protection so cover up with loose close weave clothing (such as cotton) and a wide brimmed hat to protect the neck, ears and face.



Generously apply sunscreen (5 teaspoons to cover the whole body) 15 to 20 minutes before going out.



Seek shade between 11am - 3pm when the sun is at its strongest. Always keep babies and toddlers in the shade if you can.



By following these simple tips your child will be able to stay safe and enjoy the sun. Remember parents, set your child a good example by also following this advice, and the whole family can have a happy sun safe summer.

For more information about the British Skin Foundation see [www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk](http://www.britishskinfoundation.org.uk)  
@BSFcharity





# Lunch menus



## YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK ONE WEEK COMMENCING 17.04.23, 01.05.23, 15.05.23, 05.06.23, 19.06.23, 03.07.23, 17.07.23



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Cheese and tomato pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Beef burritos served with salsa nachos (Gluten)	Pepperoni pizza (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Roast chicken pie (Gluten, Milk)	Giant fish finger (Gluten)
PLANT POWER	Cheese and tomtomato pasta bake (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn curry (Soya, Egg)	Cheese pizza (Gluten, Milk)	Quorn and veg pie (Soya, Egg, Gluten, Milk)	Veggie fingers (Gluten, milk)
SIDES	Garlic bread and broccoli (Gluten)	Rice and peas	Nachos coleslaw and corn (Gluten, milk)	Roast potato, peas or broccoli	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk, Soya)	Jelly	Cupcake (Gluten, Egg)	Donut (Gluten, Soya)	Biscuit (Gluten, Milk)

Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barmes with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad. Fresh Fruit also available.



\*MENU IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE SHOULD INGREDIENTS BE UNAVAILABLE\*

## YOUR MENU THIS WEEK

WEEK TWO WEEK COMMENCING 24.04/23, 08/05/23, 22/05/23, 12/06/23, 26/06/23, 10/07/23



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAIN MEAL	Meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten)	Chicken burgers (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Sausage roll (Gluten, Milk, Sulphites)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Sasauga (Gluten, Egg, Milk, Soya)	Chicken nuggets (Gluten, Soya)
PLANT POWER	Quorn meatballs with spaghetti (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Southern fried quorn burger(v) (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Vegetable sausage roll (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Yorkshire pudding filled with Meat free sausage (Gluten, Soya, Milk)	Veggie dippers (Gluten)
SIDES	Veg of the day Garlic bread (Gluten, Soya)	Fries and peas	Wedges and beans	Mashed potato, peas or broccoli (Milk)	Chips, baked beans or peas
PUDDINGS	Ice cream (Milk)	Krispie cake	Pancakes (Gluten, Milk)	Gingerbread biscuit (Gluten, Milk)	Cookie (Gluten, Milk)

Available daily

Jacket Potatoes or Barmes with Beans, Cheese (milk), Ham, Tuna. All served with Salad. Fresh Fruit also available.



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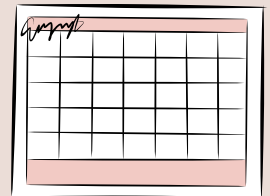
# Dates for your diary



**26 May**  
College  
Closes  
3.30pm

**5 June**  
College  
reopens  
9am

**9 June**  
Stiklings Show  
at Newton  
Community  
Centre



**13 & 14 June**  
Hospitality  
Students at  
Natspec  
Conference

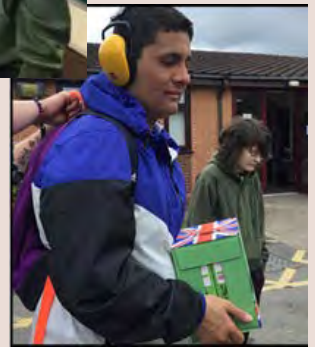
**13 July**  
Ascent  
Aspire  
Evening



# LS 1



LS1 had a trip to Chester to visit a medical museum. The trip was fun, but also help students in their travel training, independence and budgeting as well as speaking and listening to unfamiliar people. On another travel training trip to Liverpool the students used the park and ride from Kirby to Moorfield station and enjoyed a picnic lunch sitting with two of the birds from the Soloveiko Songbird Trail. The group then visited the Eurovision Village where they were treated to a variety of music from previous Eurovision winners.



LS1 have been doing some fantastic work with the Hope Centre food bank. They have got to grips with this new challenge really quickly and have found they all have a role to play. Members of the class think it is important to support our local community.



**A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS** to Kieran in LS1 who has passed his Level 1 ICT exam. All that hard work has paid off, we are so proud of you.

Kieran also took part in our recent teacher interviews. Kieran said he really enjoyed taking part, getting to meet new people and it has taught him new skills.



# ASCENT 4

The students have all been working hard practicing their circus act for their upcoming performance with Stiklings. They have shown real confidence and resilience, learning new unique skills and expressing themselves through different forms of entertainment. Their ability to challenge themselves, work as part of a team and encourage each other will make their production an amazing experience for everyone.



Ascent 4 enjoyed at trip to the Eurovision village in Liverpool, experiencing music from all cultures. This was a chance to understand the unity of music and be part of a global competition so close to home. The class travelled down independently by train as part of their travel training.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Ascent 4 took their regular termly trip to Ninja Warrior for their community day which also fell on Khovan's birthday! This session built on the skills and knowledge they have been developing as part of their health and fitness accredited learning. Fun but exhausting!



# ASCENT 4

Ascent 4 continue to enjoy their placements and develop their range of employability skills.



“Alfie, Yanick and Vincent passed on their knowledge of running a foodbank to LS1 who followed the journey from collection point through to recording and storage, whilst making a positive contribution to the community.



Tarran has utilised his interest in caring for the environment and sustainability to secure a placement with Enovert as a park volunteer at the Lyme and Wood Pitts Country Park. He is developing his role with Enovert staff to make a difference for the local community. This is just a small sample of what is going on in Ascent 4 as part of individual pathways into employment.



**JOB WELL DONE!**



Ali has become more confident and built professional relationships as a member of the Admin. Team. This has helped with her applications for local paid employment.



# ASCENT 1

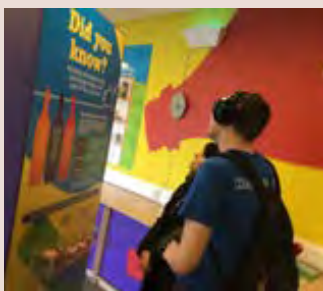
During ILS Chris from Ascent 1 went shopping to Aldi to buy ingredients to make a chicken curry. He safely chopped all the ingredients and cooked the curry and then created his very own Indian restaurant and served staff. The chicken curry was delicious.



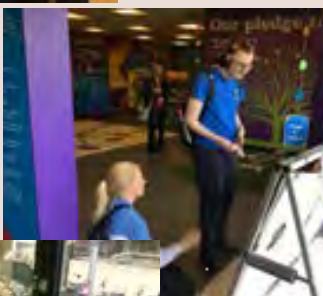
George and Chris took turns during leisure time to play a game of monopoly.



On 22 May Ascent 1 worked at Wigan Cricket Club alongside Volunteer It Yourself. The students took turns to measure and saw pieces of wood to make a new decking area. The students wore the correct PPE which included HV's, gloves, steel cap boots and safety goggles, they used a saw, tape measure and a clamp safely.



Ascent 1 visited Gilmoor Recycling Discovery Centre. Students were able to see how the machines sort the recycling, students asked some really good questions They also had chance to litter pick and organise rubbish items in to the correct bins in the hands on work shop.

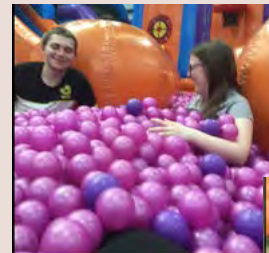


# ASCENT 2

Ascent 2 have been working on their individual cooking skills this half term and are improving each week. They have set themselves personal targets with the aim of coming together to make a group meal at the end of term.



Ascent 2 had a lovely community day at InflataNation enjoying a fun and energetic day.



Ascent 2 also had a lovely community visit to Liverpool to join in with the Eurovision celebrations. It was a fantastic day and everyone was pleased to be able experience all of the different activities.



# ASCENT 3



Ascent 3 had a wonderful trip to Liverpool during Eurovision week. The students followed the Songbird Trail.



We visited the Eurovision village and listened some amazing songs on the stage.



We followed the map searching for the Eurovision Eggs in Liverpool One.

