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SIXTH FORM SUCCESSES

Patience in Paris



Patience (Year 13) has worked so hard here at Walton since Year 7 and we are so proud of all she has achieved and done for our school. We will miss her dearly when she leaves us this year but we are so proud to announce that she has successfully scored an

offer with the University of London Institute to study French Studies with International Relations in PARIS from September.

We could not think of a better suited course and place to be for Patience. We know she will work continuously hard to succeed in her exams and we are so excited for her. Good luck Patience!

Star in the Making

Another star in the making in our Sixth Form! Ruby (Year 12) has been accepted onto the National Film and Television School BFI Film Academy residential in the role of sound designer. This takes place over the Easter holidays. This is a really prestigious course and across the whole of the UK there are only 66 places, (only 16 places for the role of sound) so she has done incredibly well. Ruby will spend two weeks working with industry standard equipment and her peers from across the country to make a short film, with the support of industry professionals. This film will then be screened at the BFI Southbank at the end of the two weeks. Ruby worked incredibly hard on her application and created a portfolio of work to support her application, committing lots of independent time to it. We can't wait to hear how she gets on at this fantastic opportunity.

We are so proud of you Ruby, enjoy!

Cambridge Offer for Megan



Congratulations to Megan (Year 13) for receiving an offer from Cambridge University to study History and Modern Languages; German.

Megan has worked so hard during her time at Walton and it has finally all paid off for her, she is an absolute star and we are so sad to be losing her this year. We wish her all the best in her exams, we know she will work so hard to make sure she gets there and we look forward to hearing all about it!

Good luck Meg!



AMY'S OUR CHAMPION!



It has been another amazing weekend for Amy's boxing career.

Amy (Year 13) became the first ever female from Stafford and Walton High School to be crowned National Amateur Boxing Champion this weekend in her **40th contest**.

She won the belt by beating Shannon Rochester of Hartlepool in the National 66kg Youth final at Solihull, recently. Amy will now represent England in the Tri-Nations in June and has a European selection camp at the English Institute of sport in Sheffield on 25th February. Amy started her boxing at an after-school group organised by Mr Williams (PE) and her coach Andy Whitehall of Right Stuff Boxing in 2017.

She trains 5 days a week alongside her A level studies putting in 16- 20 hours a week training. Amy will be jetting off to California at half term for the Beautiful Brawlers Box Cup.

Coach Andy Whitehall said "I am so proud of Amy and this is a great collaboration with school. Thanks to the Sixth Form Team, Amy

has been able to pursue her sporting and academic dreams. By summer we want a European medal and an A in her Chemistry A-level. But for now, I want her to just bask in the glory of her hard work."

Follow us on: <https://www.instagram.com/walton.sixth.form>



Parliament Ambassador Gold Award for Walton High School

We are very pleased to share the news that in December 2022 we achieved this prestigious award. This was very much due to a project that incorporated various activities over the past year and a half, such as Mental Health Campaigns, Parliament Week Activities and a collaboration with Berkswich Primary.

Mr Brindley (Head of Sociology) was recognised for his leadership of this programme by the Teachers' Institute/UK Parliament and was awarded the Gold Teacher Parliament Award.



Students in Years 10 and 11 took part in the **Intermediate Maths Challenge** earlier in the term. We are currently awaiting results!

Year 10 students have recently passed their Bronze Certificate in ASDAN's Personal Development Programme, which engages and motivates learners through a personalised curriculum. The programme has boosted students' self-belief, broadened their experiences and boosted their confidence and self-esteem.



They have also recently passed their Level 1 Food Safety and Hygiene Course and are looking forward to attending the Catering and Hospitality Taster Day at Stafford College.

Congratulations go to:

- Martha Adamson
- Reece Bridgwood
- Sam Tipton
- Liam Ray
- Joe Sandy

Welcome to our newest Governor

Lucy Stringer has joined the local Governing Body as a Parent Governor.



STANDING OVATION as **Expressions 2023** comes to an end!

What a fabulous, energetic and colourful display of dance to express emotion and creativity to songs inspired by football and the World Cup. We had over 100 students involved and what a professional performance they gave on all three nights!

We had a powerful acro-gymnastics display to open the show and an energetic Sixth Form routine to close.

And the staff didn't disappoint with a dramatic take on Waka Waka.

A big thank you from Mrs Smith (Director) to all students, parents, carers and staff who were involved, it couldn't be a successful show without you all.



SUPPORTING CHARITIES

KATHARINE HOUSE HOSPICE

We received a letter from Katharine House Hospice to thank us for last term's non-uniform fundraiser which was for over £1,000. Since 1999, through many different fundraising activities, Walton High School has donated over **£14,000** to the Hospice.

As a school, each year we traditionally support one local, one national and one international charity. The money raised by the non-uniform day on Friday 17th February 2023 will go towards an international charity. We will be supporting the Disaster Emergency Committee - Turkey - Syria Earthquake Appeal. Please make your non-uniform payment and any other voluntary contribution via ParentPay.

WALTON YOUNG CHEF COMPETITION

Four of our Year 10 GCSE Food students took part in our annual Young Chef Competition

They had to make a three-course meal for two people in two hours costing under £22.

Our judges, Dr Rowley, Mr Fletcher and Ms Hillier said the results were very close but there could only be one winner. Congratulations to our winner Bonnie Timmins!

Bonnie will go through to the Rotary Young Chef District Final at Stafford College in March. Not forgetting our runners up - Isla Timmins, Elle Poulson and Jasmine Sandy who also made some amazing.



SIBLING SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS



Picture: Ella

Back in October, sisters Ella & Beth both won their races in the Stafford & Stone District Cross Country Competition, qualifying for the Staffordshire County Cross-Country championships

Ella then went on to qualify and made the team to represent Staffordshire in the English Schools' Cross-Country Championships in Nottingham in March.

Beth came third in her race but Year 7 don't go on to English Schools.



Picture: Sebastian & Xavier

Congratulations to brothers Sebastian and Xavier for making the latest cut for England Touch - they are now in the last 26!

The next cut is after their April training camp when the final squads are announced.

Best of luck to both of them!

RED NOSE DAY 2023



Former Walton High student and designer of the iPhone and all things Apple, Sir Jony Ive has re-imagined the nose worn as part of the annual Red Nose Day appeal.

It consists of a honeycomb sphere made from paper, which folds down into a flat crescent shape.



LESSONS FROM AUSCHWITZ PROJECT



Year 13 students Megan and Hannah represented Walton High School at the Holocaust Educational Trust's 'Lessons From Auschwitz' project last week alongside other participants from the West Midlands.

They visited the site of the Nazi extermination camp to remember the lessons of past genocide and to pay respect to those who perished under Fascist tyranny.

The girls previously attended an orientation seminar reminding them of the timeline of persecution in Nazi Germany in the 1930s and will complete a project in school on their response to the visit.

As always, our Walton students were a credit to the school and have played their small, but vital part in keeping the memory and the lessons of the experience of the 10 million alive.



Our Art and Photography students enjoyed a trip to the New Art Gallery in Walsall. Here students enjoyed the touring exhibition **Breaking the Mould Sculpture by Women since 1945**.

This touring exhibition challenges the male-dominated narratives of post-war British sculpture, by presenting a diverse and significant range of ambitious work by women.

They also explored **Here&Queer** which has been co-produced with members of the LGBTQ+ community. Community members have had the opportunity to take ownership of the Collections.

This trip was a great opportunity for our creative students.



Our Year 11 triple students had a fantastic opportunity to visit **GCSE Science Live** where they had expert lectures from Scientists such as Sir Robert Winston, Alice Roberts, and Jim Al Khalili.

Even better, they had some fantastic front row seats! Students also received talks from expert examiners to help guide them as they enter their exam period. Our students were fantastic and had a thoroughly memorable day.



Homework online

This term we have been training staff and students in using the new online homework system, Microsoft Teams.

The training has taken place with Year 7 and 8 in their ICT lessons, Year 9 & 10 in the library during Tutorial and with Year 11 and the Sixth Form in class.

Students have generally found the process simple to use and staff have already started to upload work to the platform.

Homework will be delivered to all students through the Teams App via the Office365 platform after half term. Students log into Office365 using their school email address and password and can access Teams from any device, either by downloading the app or by opening the Office365 homepage.

We will retain the recording of homework in planners as a 'backup' until Easter, by which time we hope that all users can access their work effectively.

The next stage for us will be to develop the parent-view side of Teams which will offer parents a report of homework due and completed. The report, we anticipate, will be delivered to you by email.

Although we hope to have ironed out most of the technical issues, I have no doubt that some of us will experience problems and please bear with us as we try to deal with issues as they arise.

Drugs Awareness

On Tuesday 28th February we will be hosting a drugs awareness day at Walton hosted by Dave Parvin from Drug Sense UK.

In the morning Years 7-10 will be given a presentation raising awareness on vaping, illegal drugs and the effects and long-term health issues. After school our staff will be trained and skilled up to recognise drugs/drugs paraphernalia and packaging and also discussing typical 'dealing patterns' and 'signs and symptoms' of drug abuse.

Advice will also be given on the range of 'offences linked with Possession and Supply of Controlled Drugs' as well as give help and advice on how to overcome a drug misuse problem.

Educating parents is a very important role and students may well come home from school and want to discuss things with you. In order to assist with those discussions, we would like to invite you to attend a **Parents' Awareness Evening at 6.00 pm - 7.30 pm in the main school hall, Tuesday 28th February.**

By involving parents, we hope to build an effective partnership which can detect the early signs of Drug Abuse amongst students and therefore address the problem before it gets out of hand.

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a fabulous start to 2023 at Walton High School!

On Thursday 19th January 2023 we held a Careers Fair, with over forty different providers being represented. The evening was a huge success with approximately 450 students and parents attending. The event was expertly led by **Mr Stokes (Head of PSHE)**. Whilst many of our key stage 4 and 5 students benefitted from this event, it was wonderful to see so many of our younger students taking an interest in future careers.

February saw three nights of brilliant dancing as part of **"Expressions 2023"**. The students showed high levels of dedication and preparation over long evening rehearsals and two sets of weekends to ensure the performances would be perfect. They did not disappoint. What was most notable was the creative choreography, which in many cases was led by students. My thanks to all the staff who led on this event and parents that attended these shows with such passionate support.

In other news, we have concluded our curriculum review. In September we consulted with all stakeholders on what we believed should be our curriculum purpose and objective. The agreed curriculum purpose was used to evaluate our current provision to see where we were meeting the needs of our students and where we needed to focus our development. The review also audited our current curriculum against the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum. We have shared our recommendations with the Local Governing Body and I will write to you early in the next half term regarding these plans.

Please could I remind you that our uniform policy stipulates a V-neck jumper and that hoodies, zip tops and round neck sweatshirts are not to be worn. Students should be on site for 8.40am and on their way to tutor time as the 8.45am bell rings.

The second day of industrial action by the NEU is set for Wednesday 1st March 2023. I am grateful to our staff for communicating their intentions in advance of the planned strike day. They are not obliged to do this, but it has enabled us to plan and assess the impact on supervision. As I have mentioned previously, I intend to rotate the year groups affected across the further four days of action.

Our plan for **Wednesday 1st March 2023** is to be open to **Year 9 (all day)** and **Year 11 (am only)** and closed to Years 7, 8 and 10. The Government has agreed to meet with all leaders of the teaching unions in the coming days, but we must plan as if the remaining days will still take place. Students in Year 7, 8 and 10 will be set work at the time of their lesson using TEAMS assignments. Only teachers who are not striking will do this so there will still be lessons where no tasks are assigned. I will, of course write to you should we need to amend this plan, or if indeed a settlement is reached and the strike does not go ahead.



D Foskett, Headteacher

STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

Engineering Sessions

Our Year 9 students have been lucky enough to take part in some STEM enrichment with GE. They have completed two workshops so far, one where they had to design and test a plankton net and one where they had to manufacture a marble run to slow the speed of the marble as much as possible. As you can see from the photos our students had some great ideas, and worked great in their teams. GE were really impressed by our students' ideas, some of which they had never seen before! We have one more session left which will be happening at the start of March called toxic popcorn. We can't wait!





A polite reminder to parents that the Church car park (at the bottom of The Rise), is a private car park and should not be used by parents waiting to pick up students. Barriers must not be moved to gain access.

Patrons of the Church are concerned that there have been several incidents where cars have come into close contact with members of the public who are attending church events.

Thank you for your support.

School Meal - Price Rise

Chartwells have informed us that after the half time their 'meal deal' will increase to **£2.83**.

The daily allowance for students who receive Free School Meals will therefore also increase to £2.83 per day.

KEY DATES

1 March 2023	Probable Day of Teacher Industrial Action
2 March 2023	World Book Day
7 March 2023	Year 13 Parents' Evening
10 March 2023	PSHE / Careers Morning
14 March 2023	Pyramid Concert - 6.30 pm
15 March 2023	Pyramid Concert - 6.30 pm
23 March 2023	Years 7, 11 & 13 Year Group Photos
31 March 2023	Non-uniform Day
1 - 16 April 2023	Easter Holidays
17th April 2023	Return to school for Summer Term