

WALTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2023

Inside This Edition

Sixth Form Success

Parent Forum

Walton Baccalaureate

Team Taxo

Star Students

Extra Curriculum

Pumpkin Competition

Attendance

Open Evening

Headteachers' message

Around School

Key Dates

Sixth Form Success

S.T.E.M Talks

A number of our Sixth Form students aspire to advance into a Medical career. Luckily for them, we were honoured to have a talk from Zainab Hussain, a practicing doctor and Liz Clipson a Clinical Scientist specialis in Radiotherapy, who visited as part of our STEM scheme. These talks delivered a rich inspirational experience.

Thank you to both Zainab Hussain and Liz Clipson for joining us and to Miss Turner for organising such an event.



Sixth Form students with Dr Zainab Hussain and Liz Clipson



CERN Trip

Our budding scientists also had the chance to visit and experience CERN the European Organisation for Nuclear Research and one of the largest science research facilities in the world. Our students were fortunate enough to be able to go underground to see the CMS experiment, a fantastic once in a lifetime experience where students travelled 100m below ground.

The trip also included special talks led by scientists at a conference and they even got to visit the UN. The students were fantastic and excellent ambassadors for the school. We had lots of compliments on their impeccable behaviour, excellent manners and they had some great questions for the guides.



Talks
at
CERN



Sixth Formers at CERN



Lecture Hall at CERN

Psychology Reports

Every year the Psychology department conducts a research project competition in collaboration with the University of Derby. We get some amazing research papers which are often found to be of undergraduate level, and this year was no different. Dr Barnes, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Derby, said that the students showed great creativity and imagination when putting together their projects. He was struck by the students' ability to write psychologically (and scientifically), back up what they said with relevant research, and discuss and evaluate the real work implications of what their findings meant. Writing scientifically can be very challenging, so it was even more pleasing to see that these reports were as advanced as they were. 2023 winner is: Yasmin

Many congratulations to all. They should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Sixth Form Open Evening

On Tuesday 24th October, we invited prospective students and parents to a look around our Sixth Form Centre. The Sixth Form Team went all out and showed exactly what Walton has to offer.

Each department thoroughly showcased their potential and all they can offer to students. Many also put a focus on where Sixth Form can take them in the future.

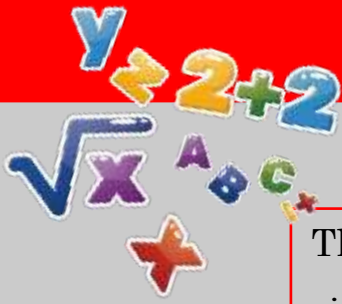
Thank you to all prospective parents and students for joining us and thank you to all staff and students who helped make the evening that little bit more amazing!

Walton Bacculaureate

This term Dr Rowley and Mr Fletcher have had the pleasure of presenting students from Year 8, 9 and 10 with their Walton Bacculaureate certificates. These students had taken it upon themselves to do additional research, creative projects and write ups (to name but a few of the activities!) in an array of their subjects. They are absolute superstars and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements! Well done to Huwi, Raja, Charlie, Imaan, Warren, Beth and Rowan!

Walton students collecting their award with our Headteachers

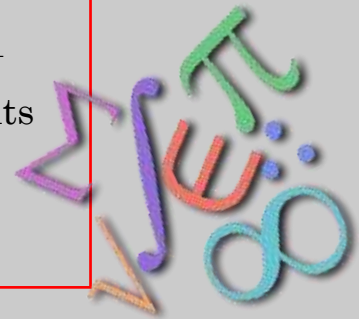




UKMT Senior Mathematics Challenge

This half term thirty Year 12s, four Year 13s, and six Year 11s took part in the Senior Mathematics Challenge, a very challenging and prestigious event. The challenge took place in the main school hall and the students did very well.

The best in school was Oleksandra in Year 13. The best in Year 12 was Sam and the best in Year 11 was Ethan. We're very proud of all of our students but these deserve an extra special round of applause!



Stafford 10K

A special mention to all students and staff who participated in this year's Stafford's 10K race. You all did amazing! However, one of our students, ran the race in 37 minutes, 37 seconds and won the 15 to 21 age category... Congratulations Joe!



Joe pictured with the Mayor of Stafford

Year 11 Geography Trip

The Year 11 cohort of Geography students visited Stafford, to survey and investigate the Riverside regeneration in the town centre. This is to prepare them for their paper three exam in the summer. All students were a credit to the school.

Year 11
Geography
cohort



Year 11 Revision

Revision sessions for GCSE English Language and English Literature have already begun! It has been fantastic to see so many Year 11 students attending these already. The motivation and engagement of this Year 11 is really encouraging.

Keep up the hard work Year 11!



Pumpkin Competition

The air has gotten colder, the nights are darker and evenings feel a little spookier, which means it is time for our annual Walton High School Pumpkin Competition! The entries this year were amazing and the display looked incredibly spooky.

We are so proud of everyone who entered and would love to give a special shout out to the Key Stage 3 Art Club who made some adorable ceramic pumpkins.

The winners of this year's Pumpkin Competition are: Jensen 7.4 is our runner up, Rubie 10.1 carved the best pumpkin, Izzie 10.1 made the most creative pumpkin and Henry 7.5 came first place overall, well done!



The Pumpkin Competition Display

KS3 Art Club's Ceramic Pumpkins



Runner up best pumpkin



1st place



Most creative pumpkin



Best carved pumpkin

Open Evening

Our Open Evening on Thursday 12th October was a roaring success, we were so happy to see all of our prospective students and their parents. Each department really went all out and showed off everything that makes Walton High one of the best.

Art had students showcase their art work, History had a walk in Key Stage 3 interactive timeline, Science made slime and elephant toothpaste, Drama had a stage in the box with a photobooth, English had literature come to life with a world of their own imagination and Music had an all night long concert.

We are so proud of how our school was displayed, thank you to all staff that went above and beyond and thank you to all prospective parents and students that came.



Staff,
Students
and events
during
Open
Evening





Library Inductions

As part of the English Department's ongoing commitment to promoting a love of reading, Year 7 spent a week this half term looking at the importance of this activity. Students began the week looking at a number of famous libraries across the world and engaged in discussion about why libraries are so important. Students were given an explanation of how books are organised in a library through the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Students also met the librarian, someone we hope they will be seeing regularly as they make use of the wonderful library we have here, at Walton.

Students continued with our library related tasks back in the classroom, learning about Simon Armitage, the UK's current Poet Laureate. Each Spring for the next decade, Simon Armitage will give readings across the UK, from the flagship libraries of the big cities, to smaller libraries serving rural and remote communities. Using the alphabet as a compass, his journey will celebrate the library as one of the great and necessary A-Zs. We challenged students to write a letter to Armitage asking him to visit Walton High School, Stafford during the 'S stage' of his tour. We have our fingers crossed that he will consider our proposal!

To conclude our love of libraries' work and to promote our love of reading, students were challenged to complete up to nine creative tasks. We have received some excellent entries so far and cannot wait to see what else Year 7 students have created for us to see.

Student Library Assistants

Due to the ever-growing popularity of the library, Miss Bowen has hired some Student Volunteer Library Assistants! These eight students will aid Miss Bowen in the library over break and lunchtimes. They will also be creating content for the Instagram, so make sure to follow it! @walton.high.library



Young Writer's Poetry Competition "This is me!"

To celebrate National Poetry Day, Thursday 5th October, students across Key Stage 3 were invited to participate in a national writing competition organised by Young Writers. Students were asked to write about themselves; from their hobbies, pets, to their characteristics.

The poem could be anything about themselves and in any form of poem they chose. Poet Kate Wakeling said *"I remembered poems are good at looking at ordinary things in a special way, so rather than just hunting for inspiration in more obviously 'interesting' places, I looked closer to home."*

Through her examples, students were asked to describe ordinary items in a more interesting way, thinking about imagery and representations of other images. Students had two weeks to complete the challenge. Mrs Tomkinson received an astounding 108 entries from across the year groups who were invited to participate.

Well done to all students who wrote their entry, all have been submitted now and we are excited to hear the results.

A huge thank you to all who attended our Parent Forums during this half term. The events were highly successful, well attended and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

The next Parent Forum will be in April, where Year 11 and Year 13 parents and students will be invited to attend an evening dedicated to supporting exam revision and stress.

In July and August, Miss Riley, Mr Lal and Mrs Wright took 23 students to Ecuador for a 'once in a lifetime' experience with Camps International. During the month that they were in South America, the group (called Team Taxo) spent a week in Puerto Rico on the Pacific Coast, a week in the Amazon Rainforest with a remote, indigenous community, a week in the Andes mountains and a week trekking around Lake Mojanda.

Whilst there, the team completed many projects which work towards the UN Sustainability Goals. The team helped to make a security gate, laid paths in the jungle, planted trees, did beach cleans, made bottle bricks, helped to dig out a herb and medicinal garden in two different communities, helped to make a bathroom and completely renovated a block of toilets in a primary school. They lived, ate and celebrated with the local community and got immersed in their culture. As a thank you for their hard work, the community treated the team to "cultural activities" during their stay. They learnt many new skills such as blow darting a chocolate in the Amazon, coffee making and Salsa dancing during their stay on the Coast and dancing with the local community in the Andes. These were all completely unforgettable experiences.

The expedition was centered around trekking and the team embarked on a number of challenging treks. They spent three days and two nights in the primary Amazon rainforest without running water or electricity, and slept in hammocks. They also trekked through the jungle to reach this camp with their amazing Jungle Guide, Javier. When in the Andes, they summited two mountains – Cerra Negra and Fuya Fuya, both of which are over 4200m. Each member of the team did themselves proud, and it is safe to say that they are all different people for this month in this beautiful country.



Team Taxo



Team Taxo

At Walton High School we offer an amazing amount of extra-curricular activities for our students to get involved with, whether it be competing on the rugby field or under the spotlight for Expressions.

You can find out about the extra-curricular activities we offer on our website:
www.waltonstaffs.com/students/extra-curriculum/

Art Club

Key Stage 3 Art Club is Friday lunchtimes at 1pm.

They make seasonal arts and crafts. So far they have made ceramic pumpkins and mixed media spider webs. The pumpkins were displayed in the Walton annual pumpkin competition and even had staff members and parents wanting to buy them! Which is a testament to the talent of the students.

Mrs Byatt and Miss Woodward have been so impressed by the creativity of our students so far and look forward to continuing to offer this Club throughout the year.



Art Club every Friday

Creative Writing Club

Creative Writing Club is every Thursday lunchtime in the library. In Creative Writing Club students work from prompts or anything hidden in their brains, to create amazing short stories or start a novel. We also have a few poets and playwrights! Due to the amazing work students produce, Mr James and Miss Bowen are looking to create a Creative Writing Anthology to feature the students work in, at the end of the academic year.

The School Musical: The Addams Family

We are thrilled to announce that the school musical this year is The Addams Family! Auditions took place on Thursday 19th October with over sixty-five students auditioning. Roles were announced Monday lunchtime and the students taking part are still buzzing with excitement.

Now starts the long hardworking process of putting the show together. We have the best faith that our Drama and Music department will pull off another sell out show!

Year 8 Rugby Tournament

A massive well done to our Year 8 rugby team who took part in a tournament in Uttoxeter. Walton came out on top as the overall winners with three wins out of four. All of the students represented themselves and the school, very proudly. Congratulations!

Under 18s' First XV

Congratulations to our U18 First XV, who won 42-24 against a strong John Taylor High School team, in the Staffs County Cup!



Walton's under 18 first XV team

District Cross Country

In October, our students competed at Stafford Grammar School in a District Cross Country Event. We are so proud of our students who displayed outstanding effort and behaviour on a wet, cold and windy afternoon at the event. Well done to those who finished in the top ten as they now qualify for the next round at County Cross Country event at Betley Court early next year.



Students competing in the Cross-country event.

We are very proud to announce that here at Walton, we received a National Attendance Award. Walton is in the top 25% of FFT secondary schools in the country for our attendance over the spring term. Well done!



Attendance Certificate

Headteachers' Message

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of a long half term, it's an opportunity to reflect on the many events which have taken place. Firstly, we would like to congratulate Year 7 who have made a really productive start in their new school. Teachers across a range of departments have told us how well they are working. We are also pleased to see a wide range of extra-curricular activities taking place and a number of school trips have already occurred. School trips are an important part of school life and we look forward to more being planned for the future.

Our biggest project has been the introduction and launch of Class Charts. This has been a huge piece of work for the staff involved in the behind the scenes technical work. We are really excited by the progress made so far and we think it's making a real improvement to home-school communications. There's still more to do with Class Charts and we look forward to its developments over the coming months. Also, as part of our home-school communications, we are continually gaining more followers to our Twitter (X) account and we were impressed by the numbers of parents who were able to attend our forum events. The opportunity to speak to parents about what we do and why is incredibly important to us, so we thank you for giving up your time to come along.

Next half term will, no doubt, be very busy too and amongst the many activities taking place, we look forward to receiving applications for our Sixth Form and we will be preparing for the arrival of our new Headteacher, Mr Leese, in January. In the meantime, we'd like to wish all our families a restful half term and we look forward to seeing refreshed student faces on 6th November.

Mr Fletcher and Dr Rowley

Key Dates

28 th October to 5 th November	Half Term
14 th November	Parents' Ski Information Evening 5.30 pm – Sixth Form Centre
28 th November	Year 13 Parents' Evening (face to face)
5 th December	Festive Concert
6 th December	Non-Uniform Day
22 nd December	School Closes at 12.45 pm
23 rd December to 7 th January	Christmas Holidays

**Be sure to follow our Twitter (X) account:
walton_staffs**