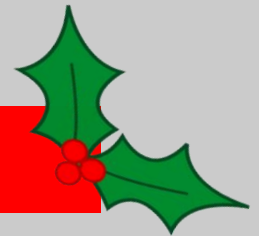


WALTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Christmas Newsletter 2023



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UK Women of the Future Award

Emily Cunningham, a former Walton High student, has won a prestigious award in her career as a Marine Biologist for her dedication to Ocean Conservation. She was awarded 'UK Women of the Future' Award. We look forward to seeing her progress further and the publication of her new book.



Over the past few weeks, students from Walton as well as our Primary feeder schools, have planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs on our school field.

The variety are Golden Cups and should give an even more fantastic display and their blooming is something to look forward in Spring 2024!

Students were treated to Mr Fletcher's extensive horticultural experience and knowledge and shown how to plant each bulb properly, with the correct tools and know how.



Daffodils from our 2022 plant

A Level Awards Evening

On 19th December we welcomed back our latest Year 13 leavers, (Class of 2016) to celebrate their success from their A Levels! We were delighted to see them and can't wait to hear of their further success.

BFI Film Academy

Year 12 Film Studies student Lucas has been accepted into the BFI Film Academy Specialist Course for Documentary Filmmaking.

This is a fantastic opportunity and as with students from previous years, Lucas has done exceptionally well to gain a place, with only 40 places available across the whole of the UK.

Lucas will have the chance to take part in Masterclasses with high level industry professionals including the director of 'Odd One Out', the BBC 3 documentary about Jesy Nelson, Oscar winning director Orlando von Einsiedel, who directed 'Heart of Invictus' and the award winning director of 'For Sama', Waad al-Kateab, plus many more.

He will also attend practical skills workshops, work with others to make a documentary film and then attend a screening of the film.

We are really proud of Lucas' success and can't wait to hear how he gets on at the residential in February.

Good luck Lucas!

Rugby Trip

What a fabulous trip we have had with our A Level P.E. Trip to a Rugby School.

The tour focused on the sporting aspects of a Rugby School and the role the school has played in sport and education, which is part of the AQA A Level course that our Year 13 students are studying.

At the end of the tour, all the students were presented with a copy of the original football rule book. A big thank you to Angus, our tour guide, who was fantastic and full of enthusiasm and knowledge.



Photos from the Rugby Museum



Year 13 P.E.



Year 11 Taster Lessons

Our Year 11s had the amazing opportunity to experience A Level Taster Lessons during Tutor. This was an incredible chance for the Year 11s to see and experience what we offer at Post 16 Education. We hope they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and hope that we will be receiving their applications to join the Sixth Form.

Year 13 Parents' Evening

Sixth Form returned to face to face Parents' Evening which was fantastic. The Year 13s received some excellent feedback from their November mocks and advice in preparation for their summer exams.

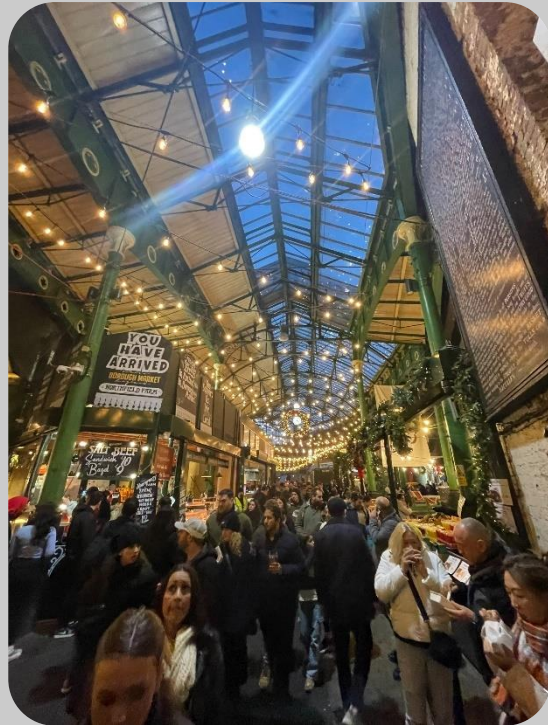
We really enjoyed having the ability to connect with parents and students to discuss their future and how else we can support them.

Year 13 Forensics and Criminology Trip

The Year 13 trip consisted of a visit to the Supreme Court to look inside a court room and attend an exhibition on the history of the court. Students also took part in a mock trial at the Royal Courts of Justice, where they played the roles of Judge, Prosecution, Defense, Clerk, Usher and Witnesses. They even had the opportunity to sit in on a real trial.

All of the students who attended the trip were fantastic and did the school proud by engaging with all of the activities and asking lots of questions.

It was great to experience London at Christmas time and to experience some of the things the students have been learning in their course.



London at Christmas



Year 13 in front of the court

SIXTH FORM

ISSUE 6
JAN 23

YOUTH PARLIAMENT



This term we have been focusing on how local parks are looked after, treated their current state and usability. We investigated this by conducting surveys asking members of the local communities' opinions on their thoughts with the current local park provision. The issues identified with local park provision have been identified as antisocial behaviour, litter, drug use and graffiti and vandalism.

As well as local park provision, they are also passionate about being able to voice important issues and raise awareness of things that they are involved with. One currently being mental health services in the local area. They have recently conducted a survey which outlined devastating results. Following this, they have contacted the 'Mental Health Champion' County Councillor Ann Edgeller, Maria Caulfield, the minister for Mental Health, and Lord Russell, who led a House of Lords' review on Mental Health Provision for Young People, to work with them regarding an exiting project for this provision in the community. This will allow them to create an impactful change and allow the young people of Stafford a voice.



STAFFORDSHIRE YOUTH UNION

We are very delighted to announce that four members of our Walton Sixth Form Youth Parliament (Finley, Erik, Caitlyn and Gracie) have been elected into the Staffordshire Youth Union to represent the young people of Stafford Borough.

Being members of the Staffordshire Youth Union means that they will be actively participating in events that will hopefully make a positive difference on our local community and its residents.

As well as this, our members of the Staffordshire Youth Union will now take part in an internal election which will decide on four Youth MPs to represent Staffordshire's young people on a national level. If elected, these YMPs will even get to speak in the House of Commons. We would like to thank everyone who voted and took part in these elections.

ELECTED



The Sixth Form Parliament Team are pleased to add another school onto their portfolio for 'Project Primary', a yearly outreach program to local primary schools to educate their pupils on the idea of parliament and democracy, running during 'Parliament Week'. They therefore worked with Leasowes Primary School to meet with their student leadership team to organise and present an assembly on Parliament and Democracy.

They also worked with their junior leadership team to launch an exciting competition for students to take part in. These competitions included a colouring in competition for Reception and Year 1, Parliament themed bunting for Year 2 and Year 3, a restoration of the Elizabeth Tower for Year 4 and 5 and designing a political party for Year 6. Winners received a certificate and a choice of various prizes. Students hope that this encourages younger students to take an interest in Parliament to secure a future interest in UK politics.



Help us change the future
YOUR OPINIONS MATTER
INSTAGRAM: @WALTONSFYP

Walton Remembers

For Remembrance Day, Walton hosted a Remembrance Parade. The Exhortation was read by our Head of History, Mr Pierpoint, and this was followed by The Last Post, played by our very own Brass Band.

A wreath was then laid at our memorial slate, which this year was beautifully decorated by the ceramic poppies created by Year 7 in Art.



Our War Memorial



Salvation Army Gift Appeal

One of our Year 10 students, James has gone above and beyond to bring some cheer to those in need this Festive Season.

Walton High School has smashed the Christmas Present Appeal for the Salvation Army. Not only have we collected donations from Walton, but we had proudly partnered with two local primary schools; Leasowes Primary School and Berkswich CE Primary School. This has meant we have been able to nearly double the amount of donations we have collected, raising a total of just under 900 presents! This means an awful lot to both the Salvation Army and those who will be gratefully receiving the presents. On behalf of the Salvation Army and all those involved, thank you. Those that have donated have made such a difference to a life, on Christmas day.



James and all of the donations

Student Awards

To highlight our students consistent good behaviour, from January, all students across Years 7 to 11 will be recognised and put into a prize draw, if they have received 100% positive points on Class Charts, the week before.

Furthermore, to encourage attendance and punctuality, students will be recognised and entered into a prize draw if they have achieved 100% attendance, from the week before.

This term alone, three hundred and forty-four students have achieved 100% achievement points, meaning not a single one of them have received a behaviour point in 12 weeks!

Young Chef Awards

Congratulations to Mollie who has won the Walton Young Chef Competition 2023!

Mr Fletcher said her lamb and rice were cooked to perfection! Mollie will join other talented young chefs in the district final in the new year.

Well done to our three other competitors Suzie, Charis and Isabelle who were also superb. We are so proud of you all and look forward to seeing you cooking at Walton in the future.



Young Chef Winner, Molly
with Dr Rowley



Young Chef Competitors
with Mrs White



Food Prepared

Under 14s' County Cup

A huge congratulations to the our Under 14 Girls' Football Team, who held their nerve and won 3-3 (3-1 penalties) vs John Taylor High in their first game of the second round of the County Cup.

We had our first goal from Erin to take the lead at 1-0 and luckily a fantastic strike from Alaynna to make it equal at 2-2. John Taylor then took the lead again and just before the final whistle we had a fantastic goal by Erin to make it 3-3.

We are super proud of all the girls and we can't wait to see how far they get!



Year 11 football match

Year 11 Football

Our Year 11 Football team, the reigning County Champions, beat Kingsmead 4- 1 at their match in November. A big well done to our goal scorers; Theo, Eddie, Hassan and Zac!

Hopefully they continue to reign champions in the New Year.



English Football League U13s' Girls' Cup

For the Under 13s' English Football League Girls' Cup, we had two teams compete. A Year 7 team who was captained by Isla and our Year 8 team captained by Erin.

Our Year 7s won 2 games and lost 1 and unfortunately could not progress to the next round due to goal difference. But keep an eye on them, they will be back next year!

Year 8's games ended in won 1, lost 1, drew 1 with a fantastic game at the end with a 3-0 win! Fantastic effort and behaviour by all in the freezing cold. For some it was their first ever game of football and they did so well.

We would also like to say a big thank you to two Sixth Form students, Liam and Ethan who have been training the girls since the beginning of the year.



Year 8 Football Team



Year 7 Football Team

House Cross Country Race 2023

We held our annual House Cross Country Race on a cold November afternoon and the turnout was amazing. Each runner did amazingly, especially in such biting cold weather! Overall the winning house was Oldacre and each first place runner in the age categories received a medal for their performance.



Cross Country Race



Oldacre Cross Country
Winners

Odd Sock Day

For Anti-Bullying Week everybody was encouraged to wear Odd Socks, to stand up against bullying. Year 7 wore the most odd socks and Tutor Groups 7.4 and 7.6 won awards for having the oddest of socks.

Tutor groups also designed their dream pair of odd socks which were displayed around the school. Anti-Bullying week also saw the launch of the Anti-Bullying Committee which will focus on how to maintain a bully-free school and how students can support those who are being bullied.



Odd Socks

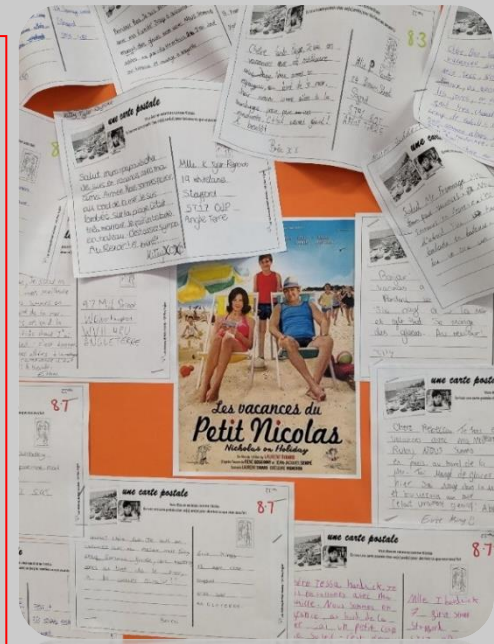


French Postcards

Year 8 have been studying the film *Le Petit Nicolas En Vacances* by Laurent Tirard as their end of Autumn Term holiday topic.

They have worked really hard and produced some lovely postcards in lessons with Madame Bower, to create a super wall display.

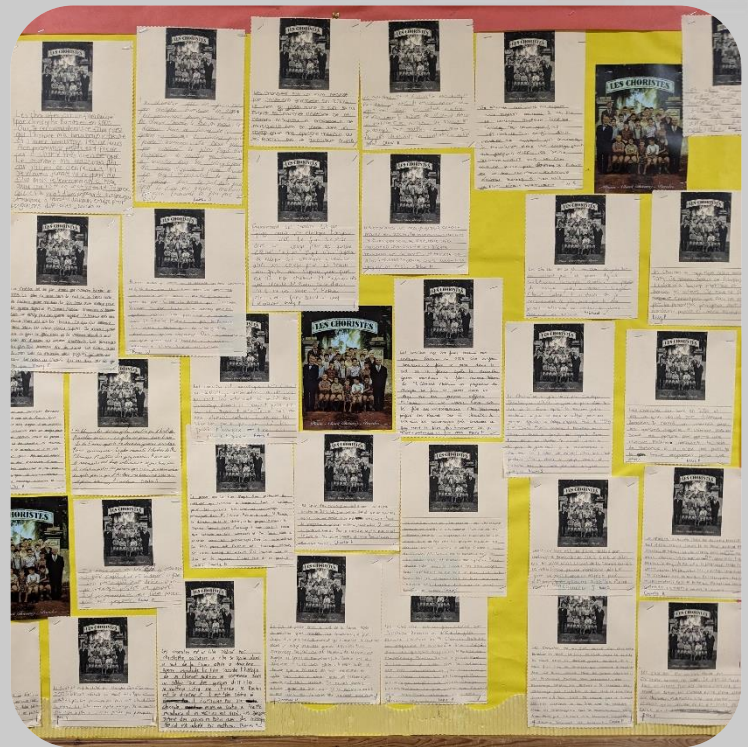
Well done Year 8 - Fantastique! Bravo!



Year 8 French Postcards

Year 9 French Films

Year 9 have been studying the film *Les Choristes* a 2004 musical drama film adapted by Christophe Barratier. Set in the 1950s, it tells the tale of a boarding school for challenging boys who find inspiration from a new music teacher. At the end of the film, Year 9 all wrote a film review in French and did amazingly.



Year 9 French Film Review

Year 9 Engineering

Year 9 had their first engineering science lesson this term, where they had to construct a device which could move a tub of popcorn from one side of the room to the other. This task however was only achievable once they understood the importance of teamwork, project management and construction. They managed the task really well and came up with some quite creative devices.



Year 9 during Engineering Lesson



Christmas Concert

On Tuesday 5th December, over 85 students wowed the audience in the annual Festive Concert with the Music Department.

The students worked incredibly hard in rehearsals and were amazing on the evening, showcasing a mixture of solo performances and ensembles.

A huge thank you to all parents who came along to support your children and to the staff who supported the Music Department on the evening.

Christmas Concert



GCSE Awards Night

We celebrated the Class of 2018 and all their achievements, following all their hard work, this summer. Many students received a multitude of awards for excelling in their exams. We are very proud of the class of 2018 and we look forward to hearing all about their future successes.

Non – Uniform Day

On the 6th December, we hosted a Non-Uniform Day which raised a total of £1089.50 for Katherine House Hospice.

Food Bank Appeal

Throughout December, students have been bringing in donations for Our Food Bank Appeal with House of Bread. This year, we had an amazing amount of items donated which will help families struggling this festive season.



Stupendous Student Support

Over in our amazing Student Support this term, we have had some great activities in place to support our students. These include our ASDAN Year 11 wellbeing walks, crafts, Anti Bullying week, complete with Odd Sock Day and a festive treat with our Christmas Tree Tags.



Our ASDAN Year 11

Our students in Student Support recently had a tour around Stafford College, which included their new area for sports, construction including engineering, mechanics, electrical site and bricklaying.

This trip ended in a morning with an informative talk from the Apprenticeship team.

Student Support Christmas Crafts



Trip to Stafford College

In the Library

As the ever growing culture forms in the library, we have had some amazing competitions and events to encourage all the different ways students can use their library space. From Christmas crafts, to our A – Z reading challenge. The library has been a warm welcoming escape for all students.

At the beginning of December we had some Christmas craft activities, as five girls in Year 8 made a massive paper chain out of old books. Others were trying to figure out the perfect name for our book snowman.

This term we have also held a number of competitions, our A to Z reading challenge where students tackle the alphabet by reading books, filling in each letter with a book title or authors' name. Bora in Year 7 read 12 books and Atharva also in Year 7 read 9 books!



Year 8's Paper Chain



Booky the Snowman

We also joined the Reading Solutions, Winter Wonderland Poetry Competition. Even though we won't find out if we have won until after the New Year, Miss Bowen has picked the Walton Winners.

Well Done, Beth 8.4, Joseph 7.1 and Ava 7.6.



Winter Wonderland

A small shard of light early morning light sliced through the ethereal clouds
The rays of sunlight washed over the landscape covering it in a peaceful glow
From the great, verdant green fir trees to the uneven and sloped rocky
ground of the mountains.

Everything in the vast expanse was covered in pure and ivory whiteness.

A cerulean ribbon of water slinked through the deep cut valley

Had overnight become encapsulated, mid flow, by the iridescent ice.

Tranquil silence echoed around only broken by the bird's melodious trilling

It was truly a winter wonderland.

By Beth 8.4



What's for Lunch?

Our students and staff were treated this term by our school kitchen, as they served a magnificent Christmas themed feast, from reindeer cupcakes to all the pigs in blankets they could find. It was delicious and put everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Christmas Feast



English Advent and Poetry

During the month of December, the English Department have reflected on some fantastic Christmas Literature throughout the years. Our advent calendar on social media reveals a quotation each day.

Be sure to follow the Walton High English Department on Facebook and Instagram

An update on our 'Young Writers' competition which 104 students entered in October, out of the 104 entries an amazing 77 students were chosen to be published.

Well done to all students who entered; please look out for further competitions in the New Year.

To view our Extra Curriculum options please see www.waltonstaffs.com/extra-curriculum/

Art Club

Art Club have been busy this half term creating Christmas decorations and cards. Art Club is very popular this year with 30+ students regularly attending each week. Miss Woodward and Mrs Byatt have really enjoyed working with some fantastic young budding Artists. From ceramic pumpkins and collage ghosts, to a Christmas crafting extravaganza!

Come and join us in January, for some seasonal Art making fun. Open to Key Stage 3 students - 1pm Room 21.

For more images of what we have been up to and to keep up to date with all the fun visit our popular Instagram page.

@waltonartdepartment



Art Club's Christmas Crafts

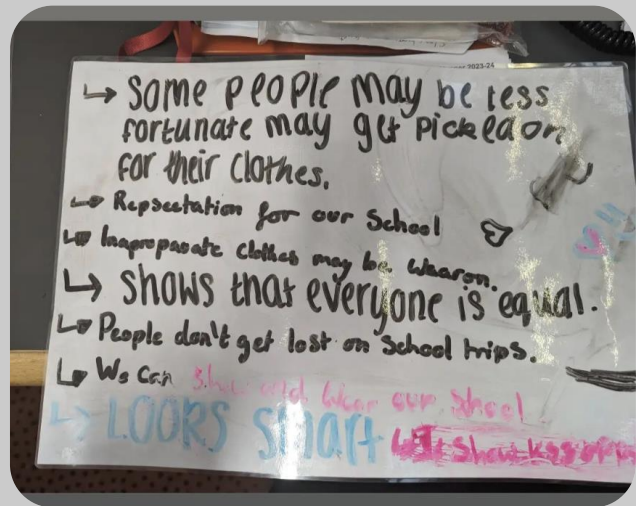
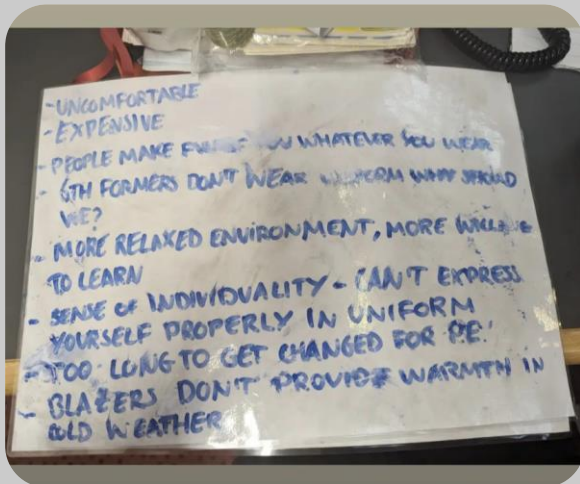


Creative Writing Club

This term in Creative Writing Club, the students have been working together in groups to create different stories. Some created the perfect villain where others aimed to tell the best murder mystery!

Debate Club

Debate Club, new this term, has had an amazing start. Students are able to debate sociological issues together or get to argue on behalf of their favourite Christmas song. The students have a really positive attitude to debate club and their arguments are becoming very well researched and informed.



Debates from Debate Club

Our Headteachers

Dear Parents and Families,

We are almost at the end of the Autumn term and what a busy term it has been. As we 'sign off' and return to our Deputy Headteacher roles we would like to thank everyone for their support.

Mr Leese will be taking the Headteacher role from January and we wish him well for the future. In the meantime, we would like to wish everyone associated with Walton, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mr Fletcher and Dr Rowley

Headteacher's Welcome

Dear Parents and Families,

It is with great pleasure that I write my first message to all of you in the Walton community in our Christmas Newsletter, before I take on the role of Headteacher in January. I am excited to lead a school that has firmly established itself as a centre of excellence with a strong academic reputation. Walton is known across Staffordshire for its strong examination results and high-quality teaching. In the past few weeks, whilst visiting the school a number of times, I have also found it to be a wonderful, welcoming place with outstanding students and talented staff determined to make a difference.

I had the privilege of meeting many of you at the Year 6 Open Evening in October. I got to see first-hand just how incredibly proud students are of their school as they talked to prospective students in Year 6 about all the amazing things that go on here. I was struck by their enthusiasm, kindness and humour as they led activities in departments and shared their experiences with parents and Year 6 children. When I got lost near the music department two Year 10 students kindly took me on a guided tour and told me all about their school and how much they enjoyed being a student at Walton.

Since then, I have visited to meet with leaders a number of times and kept up-to-date with events in school through Mr Fletcher and Dr Rowley. Their leadership of the school over the past few months means that it is in a strong position when I join after Christmas and I am extremely grateful to them for this.

I look forward immensely to meeting you in the coming weeks and months and working together with all members of the Walton High School community to ensure it continues to serve our students by providing a high-quality education for all.

Mr Leese

Key Dates

22 nd December	Last day of term, students leave at 12.45pm
8 th January	First day of Spring Term
16 th January	Parents' Forum – E Safety
24 th January	Young Voices Concert - Birmingham
25 th January	Careers Fair
30 th January	Year 9 Options Information Evening
6 th – 8 th February	Expressions
9 th February	Ski Trip departs
12 th to 16 th February	Spring Half Term

Be sure to follow our Twitter (X) account: [Walton_Staffs](#)

