

# Walton High School Newsletter



---

## Easter Newsletter 2024

### Inside This Edition

Headteacher's Message

All Performing Arts

Sixth Form Success

Stop That and Read

Awards

Around School

Star Students

Extra Curricular

Sports News

Key Dates

# Headteacher's Message

I would like to thank all members of the Walton community for the reception I have received since taking over as Headteacher in January. Staff, students and parents alike have gone out of their way to make me feel welcome, and I have had many opportunities over the past few weeks to see for myself what a wonderful school it is.

Although this term has been slightly shorter than others, you will see from the Newsletter that there has been so much going on. I am surprised that we have managed to fit it all in! From sporting success to academic excellence, charity fundraising to extra-curricular opportunities, it has truly been a busy, but rewarding term.

I have been particularly impressed with the efforts of students in Year 11 and Year 13 who have completed their final mock examinations and have now begun preparation for their final external exams which will start in just a few weeks' time. The school has put together a comprehensive program of revision and support which we feel will support them greatly in the build up to their examinations. I am sure they will not need it, given how hard they are working, but we wish them all the luck in the world!

Mr Leese

## Open Minds

Mr Brindley and the Sixth Form Youth Parliament would like to officially announce the launch of Open Minds: Staffordshire, a mental health directory app designed by young people in Staffordshire, for young people in Staffordshire. This app follows our recent work on finding out about what young people think of mental health services in the area, where we identified that they are simply not aware of most of these services.

That's where our SF Youth Parliament came in! All of these services for young people, all in one easy to use app you can call, text and visit these services straight from the app.

We are also extremely proud to have met with former Secretary of State for Education and South Staffordshire MP Sir Gavin Williamson to discuss the launch of Open Minds: Staffordshire. Sir Gavin was also joined by County Councilor and mental health champion Ann Edgeller. Both were extremely impressed with the app. The Sixth Form Youth Parliament are looking forward to continue working with both of these individuals to further promote the app and the issue of children's mental health.



Sixth Form Youth Parliament with Gavin Williamson and Ann Edgeller

## Year 13, Paint Brains

To understand and learn the different parts of the brain, Year 13 have been replicating and painting them. This looks to be a super creative way to recall the information needed in their upcoming exams!

Year 13 painted brains



## Year 12 Forensic Trip

Our budding Year 12 forensic scientists had a fantastic day at Staffordshire University. Processing crime scenes and then analysing their evidence in the lab. They were amazing ambassadors for the school and did amazingly.



Year 12 Forensics Trip



## Year 12 Geography

Our Year 12 Geography students, had an amazing two days to complete fieldwork for their examinations. Their first day was Salford Quays and Fallowfield, to investigate rebranding and anti-social behaviour. Luckily for them they missed the infamous Manchester rain. On the second day they headed to Talacre sand dunes and Prestatyn to look at coastal fieldwork methods and sea defences.



Year 12  
Geography Trip

## Year 12 Physics Senior Challenge

Last term we participated in the Physics Senior Challenge. We have now had the results and we would like to say a massive 'well done!' All students obtained a certificate which is fantastic, however a special mention should go to Finlay, Matty, Ashton, Freddie and Sam who all obtained Gold.

## Sixth Form Prospective Students

The Sixth Form Team have had their hands full with an outstanding number of applicants received for the next academic year. Over 120 of them just from our current Year 11s.

Our Sixth Form is an amazing post -16 educational institute and we look forward to seeing all prospective students on Induction Day.

## Bonnie and Clyde

Our Year 12 and Year 13 actors were given the chance to see *Bonnie and Clyde* 'the Winner of Best New Musical at the WhatsOnStage Awards 2023, the West End cult-sensation' at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The students had an amazing time and can now apply another stage show to their upcoming examinations.



'Bonnie and Clyde' stage  
at Wolverhampton

## Cyclist Star

Evie in Year 12 travelled to Banyoles, near Barcelona, in Spain to represent British Cycling by racing at a Junior World Cup for MTB before half term. She then spent a week training in Spain for the forthcoming season.

## Too bee or not to bee

Lucas in Year 12, had the amazing opportunity to achieve a place on the British Film Institute Course, where he made an outstanding short documentary about Urban Bee Keeping! We are immensely proud of Lucas and can't wait to see what else he will achieve.

We would also like to thank Mrs Taylor who always inspires her students to be the best they can be.



Lucas'  
Documentary title  
screen

## Auschwitz Project

In February the History Department continued its long tradition of organising for our A Level students to visit Auschwitz as part of the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project. The project funds two students from all schools every year, to visit Auschwitz and learn about the history and contemporary importance of Holocaust education.

Grace and Tilly in Year 13 were a credit to Walton High and conducted themselves with dignity and respect. We know that both girls shall remember the message of tolerance and humanity that such a memorial now seeks to represent.

A big thank you to Mr Pierpoint and our History Department for organising such an amazing opportunity.



Auschwitz Gate



Tilly and Gracie  
boarding their  
plane.



## World Book Day – Sixth Form Style

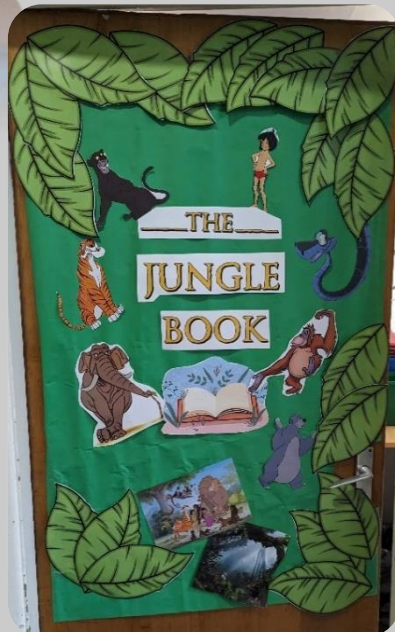
World Book Day this year, was not just for Key Stage 3 & 4 as Sixth Form students celebrated with decorated doors, dedicated reading, as well as some great costumes!

The week started off with a great assembly from Mr Fowler. In tutor groups all doors were decorated to represent some favourite books and many of them had their own unique style.

On World Book Day, a handful of sixth formers dressed up and celebrated their love for reading with a bookish photoshoot in the library!



Staff and students dressed up for World Book Day



Sixth Form Book Cover Door Decor

## Member of Youth Parliament

A first for Walton High School! We are extremely proud to announce that following four of our students being elected as Youth Union representatives for Stafford Borough, Caitlyn (Year 12) has been voted in as a 'Member of Youth Parliament' for Staffordshire.

Caitlyn's candidature will be from 2024–2026, and she is one of only four Members of Youth Parliament that represent the entirety of young people in Staffordshire.

Amongst her many new responsibilities, Caitlyn will get to sit and speak in the House of Commons during the Youth Parliament sitting this November.

Congratulations, Caitlyn MYP!

A huge thank you as well to Mr Brindley for running our youth parliament enrichment and inspiring our students.



Caitlyn pictured with the Youth Union Parliament

Awards for all, in Walton's new reward scheme. Every week students have the chance to win, by receiving 100% praise points or 100% attendance. Each week students are also nominated for the Outstanding Work Award, which has multiple other awards running alongside it, such as the Extra Curricular Award and the Resilience Award. So far, over 500 students have been nominated.

Each week Mr Leese meets with students from different year groups who have won the 100% praise points award, to congratulate them on their success.



Mr Leese with Year 7 students who have done Outstanding Work.

Mr Leese with Year 9 students who have done Outstanding Work.



Mr Leese with Year 11 students who have done Outstanding Work.

## Maths Challenges

Maths have been a part of many challenges this term including the UK Intermediate Math's Challenge and the Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

One hundred and thirty-nine students from Years 9, 10 and 11 were involved in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. We received the results and were really proud of the success of our students.

Thirteen students achieved the Gold Award, ten of whom have been invited to participate in the next round.

All students involved did an incredible job and we cannot wait to share with you the results from the Pink Kangaroo Challenge.

## Anti-Bullying Committee

Mr Stokes has launched our Anti-Bullying Committee which met for the first time this term. Students from all groups discuss how to identify different types of bullying and how this can be reported in school.

## Anti-Racism Committee

Mr Stokes has also launched our Anti-Racism Committee which has met regularly this term. Students from different year groups and ethnic backgrounds meet to discuss how to identify different types of racism and how this can be reported in school, as well as how to better the school's and community's thoughts on tackling racism.



Our Anti-Bullying Committee Meeting

## Frankie's got Talent

A big well done to Frankie, who did so amazingly at the 'Cannock's Got to Sing!' competition. The event organiser reached out to showcase his success! Well done Frankie!

Frankie during 'Cannock's Got to Sing!'



## Young Chef Awards

A big congratulations to Mollie in Year 7 who participated in the District Final of The Rotary Young Chef Competition held at Stafford College. Mollie made an amazing Kabab Tabeh'ei for her main course, with a dessert of healthy chocolate brownies. Although Mollie didn't win this year, she is a winner in our eyes. Well done Mollie, you're a star!



Mollie and her entry for the Young Chef Competition

## Expressions

A huge well done to all the students involved with this year's Expressions Dance Show!

All 114 students who took part in the show were absolutely fantastic and we are so proud of them. The level of commitment, performance and technical skill was superb. A big thank you to Mrs Smith for her dedication and to all the staff members who got involved also. We can't wait to see you all again next year.

## Netball Fixtures

Our Netball teams have gone from strength to strength this year. The Year 10 team have won the Stafford District Tournament, which took place at Stafford Manor. The Year 8 team came second in the Under 13s' Stafford District Tournament at Penkridge Middle School. We hope our Year 9 team do equally well, in their match next term.



Our Year 8 and Year 10  
Netball Teams.

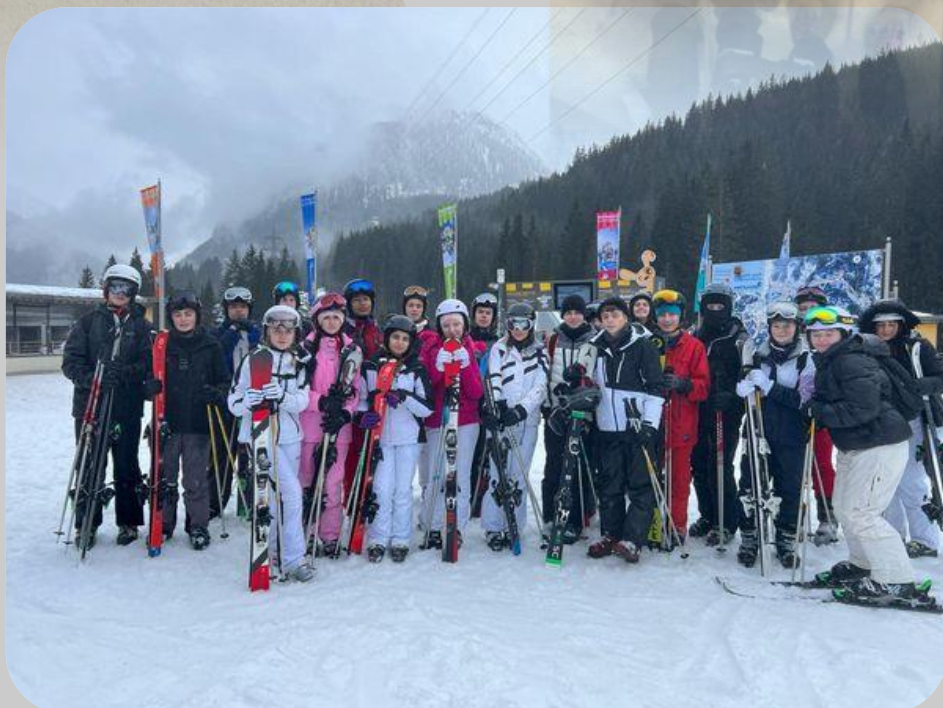
## Ski Trip – Austria

Before half term we said bon voyage to students and staff who spent five days on the slopes of the Austrian Alps. All staff and students had a great time, even if some picked the wrong size poles and Mr Valentine fell off the chair lift!

All students were a credit to the school and we as a whole, could not have been any prouder. Unsurprisingly, given the great reputation of our ski trips, Mr Valentine has already filled the places for the Easter 2025 visit to Canada.



Austria Ski  
Trip 2024





## **Apex Swimming**

Mr Valentine was approached by Apex Swimming Club who wanted to share the success of our students. They thanked our students who represented them at two Swimming Galas last weekend. We had some excellent swimming, some brilliant 'PB' times, medals and a few trophies.

Especially well done to Natalie, Beckett, Paige, Chloe, George and Rufus.

Thank you, Stafford Apex for sharing our students' success, we can't wait to hear how they do next season.

## **Year 11 Football**

Our Year 11 boys' football team have done us proud! They beat Biddulph High School 3-1 to reach the semifinal of the County Cup, again.

They scored fantastic goals two by James and one by Sachin, Well done!

## Young Voices

In January our Music Department took 62 students to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham to be a part of the UK's biggest school choir, Young Voices. Our students did an amazing job, singing for over eight hours, as a part of a choir with 6128 other students, a live band, three celebrity artists and even a professional dance crew. All involved did Walton very proud and are excited to do it all over again next year.



Young  
Voices  
Concert  
2024

## Pyramid Concert

We held our annual Pyramid Concert in March inviting four of our feeder primary schools to take part. They created a mass choir of around 200 students including a live band made up of Walton students. All students rehearsed and performed extremely well and were great ambassadors for the school. Well done to all students involved.

# Stop That And Read

Week beginning 4th March was STAR Week (Stop That And Read). Although organised by the English Department, this is a week focused on promoting the importance of reading across the entire school, feeding into our celebration of World Book Day on Thursday 7th March.

In preparation for the week, Mr Fowler delivered an excellent and motivational assembly around books that had inspired him throughout his life. Students and staff enjoyed his thought-provoking message – “that inspiration can come from all types of literature.”

During tutor time, students completed a number of activities concerning the importance of reading. Tutor groups were encouraged to decorate their tutor room doors replicating a book cover of their choice. It was great to see a range of books being used as well as wide spread participation from tutees. Mr Leese, Miss Bowen and Mrs Tomkinson enjoyed the challenging task of judging all of the doors; there were some truly amazing creations! Another competition held during the week was a ‘book hunt’. Using the information of posters detailing the books being read by staff, students were given questions to answer. This was great fun. Well done to all who entered. Finally, to finish the week, tutor groups were asked to Stop Everything and Read a book of their choice.

Winning  
Book  
Décor  
Entries



## Visiting Artist

Year 9 students worked with visiting artist Jane Clowes as part of our yearly careers programme in Art. Each year we invite a local successful Artist to work with students and discuss their career path. Students were able to produce ceramic pieces relating to their 'Visual Communication' project and gain new skills and insights into working in ceramics.



Year 9 with Jane Clowes

## Year 6 Art Taster



Berkswich CE Primary School,  
working during their Art Taster Day

The Art Department have hosted a number of taster lessons with our local primary schools. Pictured here was the session with Berkswich CE Primary. It has been a pleasure to meet some of our new cohort for next year and what talented budding artists they were too. We gave them a taste of what's to come in the Year 7 "Toy Story" project, designing Lego mini figures inspired by the artist Vincent Sabatier.

## Year 9 Engineering

Year 9 have taken part in Engineering sessions run by the engineering firm GE. They were given a challenge to design and create in teams, a marble run, so that the marble took as long as possible to reach the bottom.

The students were given a set amount of resources so they needed to plan their design very carefully before manufacturing their final plan. The students involved worked wonderfully and GE were very impressed with both their attitudes and their designs.



Year 9  
Engineering



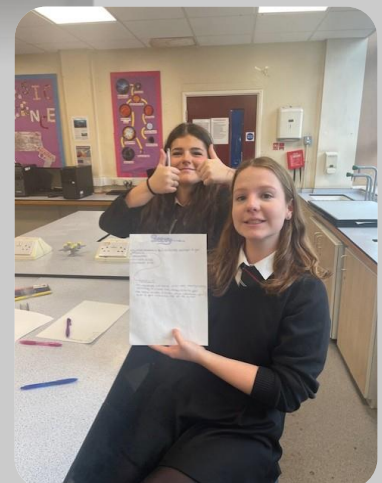
## JCB Engineering Competition

This week our Year 10 triple students took part in a National Engineering competition where they had to design a device, market it, and even perform a TV advert to promote their idea. The quality of the work was outstanding and we found it really difficult to pick one winner.

The staff from JCB were so impressed that they allowed us to take two teams through to the final which will take place on the 26th April. Well done to Gecko Goggles and Sleevey for making it through to the next round.



Students  
during the  
JCB  
Engineering  
Competition



## A Lotus Car and a Film Crew

We had some special visitors in school from Lotus cars. Sarah Drake, an experienced mechanic, engineer and now Academy Manager drove up to Walton from Norfolk in one of their flagship cars called the Lotus Emira.

Sarah had lots of fantastic discussions with students about her role and opportunities which could be available to them, if they would like to pursue a career in the automotive industry. Sarah was also kind enough to give our Year 11 students an assembly outlining her role and the path she took to get the job she is doing today.

In the afternoon, Sarah and her colleagues met individually with students who made appointments to discuss careers and the different pathways available to them through Lotus. Additionally, we also had a film crew with us for the day filming all of the wonderful work we do with our STEM students, so stay tuned!



Lotus Emira



STEM  
assembly

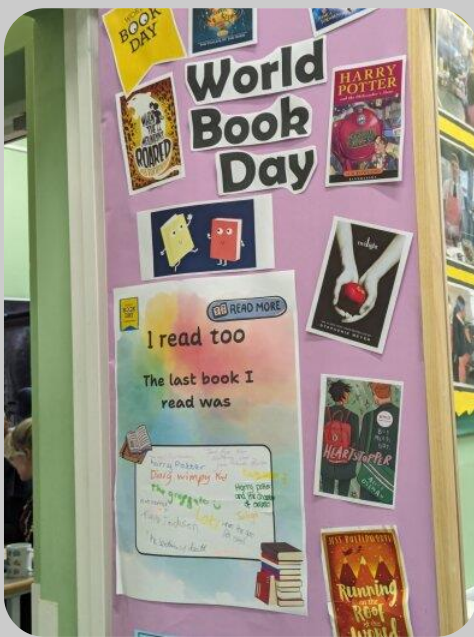


STEM  
lesson

## Stupendous Student Support

Over in our amazing Student Support Department this term, we have had some great activities in place to support our students. These include a fantastic decorated door and a bookmark tree.

Students took the time during S.T.A.R. week to partake in Student Support's bookmark making competition where all entries are now hanging on a bookmark tree, to celebrate their love for reading.



Student  
Support  
World Book  
Day  
Activities



## 'This is Me' Published Anthology

In the last edition, you may remember that 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 writing about themselves.

We were very pleased to receive the results back and to learn that a number of our students had been selected. A huge well done to all the students who saw their work in print.

## World Book Day

World Book Day was full of engaging activities to encourage our students to read. To match the theme of World Book Day 'Read for Pleasure' the library focused on all the different ways in which students can enjoy literature. From reading out loud, to a book themed scavenger hunt. However, the infamous Library Mystery returned from last year's 'Body in the Library'. This time the Library had been transformed into the Museum of Literature Artefacts and battling Greek Gods had been accused of thievery. It was up to the students to solve the matter before the lunch bell rang.

A big well done to all students who solved the case and a massive thank you to Ella-Rose, Luca, Imogen and Lola for bringing our Greek God suspects to life.

That wasn't all, the Library also held host to students who dressed up on the day. All costumes were imaginative and a delight to see.



World Book Day  
Library Mystery



Students  
dressed up  
as book  
characters





## Comic Relief Bake Sale

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March, Walton held a Comic Relief Bake Sale where staff and students all got baking to raise money for Comic Relief. The students had the chance to buy all types of bakes during the morning and many cakes sold out fast.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the thirty-three students who baked all types of goodies, Mrs Turner for organising the event, Emma and Caitlyn from Sixth Form and all those staff involved in baking, selling and supporting this charity fundraiser.

We have raised an amazing £879.05!!!



Comic Relief Bake Sale



## **Year 11 & Year 12 Food Technology**

Congratulations to all of the Food and Nutrition Year 11 and Year 12 students who completed their NEA examinations this half term. We are incredibly proud of what are students achieved during their three hour practical examination and were inspired by their efforts. Keep up the good work

For updates on the fantastic work our students do across the Technology Department, check out our instagram [@waltondtdepartment](#)

To view our Extra Curricular options please see [www.waltonstaffs.com/extra-curriculum/](http://www.waltonstaffs.com/extra-curriculum/)

## Art Club

This term pupils have been designing and making their own magazines by refashioning existing magazine pages. Pictured are some of the pages and front covers that the students are working on. The individual pages will then be stitched together to create their finished pieces. Art Club is still extremely popular with around thirty students attending each week. The students are superstars and Mrs Byatt and Miss Woodward love working with them.

Come and join us, open to Key Stage 3 students – Friday 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.



Art Club Magazine

## Creative Writing Club

This term in Creative Writing Club the students have been writing short stories from Miss Bowen's prompt box. From people we meet on the streets, to the strange depths of why a Zebra has stripes.

The read along session which was held, heard many of these short stories brought to life. We are immensely proud of our budding writers.

Come and join us, next time they will be exploring the art of character creating. Every Thursday lunchtime – Upstairs Library.

## Work Zone

Mr Salter, has kindly opened his room once again this term to all students who need to get their Educake on! So, if you know you can be a little forgetful on your homework, head to Room 82IT Monday – Friday from 1pm.

## Foods Around the World

Our Duke of Edinburgh skills challenge has seen our students attempt dishes from South African Bunny Chow to Thai Green Curry. Miss Dixon is incredibly proud of the commitment and efforts from these students and looks forward to making Polish Potato Cakes, Swedish Meatballs and Dutch Apple Cake with these students, following the Easter break.



D of E Food  
Around the  
World



# Key Dates

<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March to 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Easter Holidays</i>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Year 10 Virtual Parents' Evening</i>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Prefect Presentation 5pm - Sixth Form Centre</i>
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> April to 26<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<i>Year 7 Bikeability</i>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>Bank Holiday Monday School Closed</i>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<i>Year 12 Festival of Futures Year 12 into Year 13 Information Evening – 6pm Sixth Form Centre</i>
<b>25<sup>th</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<i>Half Term</i>