



WALTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Easter Edition 2025



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Headteacher's message

Dear Parents/ Carers,

As you will be able to see from our Spring Newsletter there has been so much going on in school this term. We are really proud of our sporting success in recent football, rugby and netball tournaments and, as you will see from updates from the PE department, students have represented the school admirably. Rehearsals for the summer production of High School Musical have continued apace with countless hours spent learning lines and routines under the watchful eye of our music and drama departments.

Our prospective prefects in Year 10 and 12 have been interviewed for leadership positions and will find out imminently whether they have been successful. Students got involved in World Book Day and STAR Week by decorating their tutor doors in the style the front cover of a book, with entries ranging from Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne to Jurassic Park by Michael Crichton.

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have recently completed their mock examinations and staff have provided feedback on strengths and areas for development. For the first time at Walton, students in Year 11 received their results via a 'Mock Results Day'. Anxious students were brought to the Sixth Form Centre by their tutors and were handed their results and an information sheet. It was a fantastic morning where students had the opportunity to experience the feeling of being given their results, to celebrate successes with each other, but also to have the support of tutors and staff if it was not what they were hoping for.

As we move towards the summer examination series we wish all of our Year 11 and 13 students the very best of luck.

A Leese, Headteacher

Rotary Young Chef and Cluster Finals 2025



In February two of our most talented food students compete in the 'Rotary Young Chef District Final' at Stafford College. Competitors were asked to prepare and serve, in two hours, a two-course healthy meal comprising a main course and dessert for two people and costing up to £18.00 sterling.

We couldn't be prouder of Khushboo Y9 and Roumaissa Y10. The standard was the best we've seen in a long time. Roumaissa achieved runner up and went on to compete in the Cluster Finals at Halesowen College. For a Y10 GCSE student her dishes were already restaurant quality.

Unfortunately, Roumaissa didn't win, however according to the judges the competition was really close this year. She's still our winner! Well done Roumaissa. A big thank you to their family and her teachers Mrs White and Miss Dixon for being so supportive.

We are very pleased to announce that Dr Rowley, Deputy Headteacher, has been elected to the post of Vice President of ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders). Next year, she will become President of the Association.

It is a great honour to be elected to this post and Walton will benefit for all the knowledge and contacts that she will have access to during her term of office. Dr Rowley will continue to work at Walton during this time and we wish her well for this exciting part of her career.

Below Dr Rowley is pictured with Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education, who she met in Westminster recently to discuss all things education.



Save the date ...

Make sure you clear your diaries for our annual Art Exhibition on **Monday 7th July 2025** in our **Sixth Form Centre** from **5:00pm** until **6:30pm**.

This exhibition will showcase the work produced by our current cohort of Year 13, 12 and 11 Art and Photography students. It is a fantastic opportunity for family and friends to join us in celebrating the students hard work and dedication throughout their time with us.

Prizes will be given out on the night and drinks and refreshments will also be available.



Our non-uniform day raised £1,062 for Global Fund for Children and our recent bake sale raised almost £400.

Thank you for your support.





7/JULY/2025

ART SHOW

WALTON HIGH SCHOOL
SIXTH FORM CENTRE
5:00 - 6:30PM

During March some of our feeder schools visited the Geography Department to carry out an investigation around the school grounds, to decide the best place to locate a new school bench. They selected three areas they wanted to assess which were, the field gate, tennis courts/ fire drill area and the Table Tennis area. They collected data about surface type, litter count and decibel noise reading. Berkswich students were also able to interview Mr Leese and found a spot that catered for his requests.

The majority of the students preferred the field gate area where they could watch some sport and it was a quiet pleasant environment where they could also see the flowers they had previously planted.



The prefect interviews were a great success, showcasing the confidence, leadership, and communication skills of our students. It was a fantastic opportunity to see how well they presented themselves in an interview setting, demonstrating their ability to think on their feet and articulate their ideas effectively.

Each candidate displayed a strong commitment to the role, making the selection process both inspiring and challenging. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and excited to see the positive impact our successful candidates make as future prefects.

S.T.A.R. week

Week beginning 3th March was STAR Week (Stop That And Read), a week focused on promoting the importance of reading, which fed into World Book Day on Thursday 6th March.

STAR Week gave us an ideal opportunity to talk to our students about what they were reading and also a chance for them to ask us what we were reading! In preparation for the week, Mr Fowler delivered an excellent, motivational assembly around books that had inspired him throughout his life.

Students and staff enjoyed his thought-provoking message about the power words have to influence us and our way of thinking; his book choices also proved that inspiration can come from all types of literature.

During tutor time, students completed a number of reading focused activities. Tutor groups across all Key Stages also decorated their tutor room doors in a book cover of their choice. It was great to see a range of books being used as inspiration for this and even lovelier to hear some of the conversations this sparked. Mr Leese, Miss Riley, Miss Bowen and Mrs Tomkinson enjoyed the challenging task of judging them all. We also ran another competition based on the idea of a 'book hunt' which was a great success.

Perhaps our most popular competition for STAR Week this year was our new addition - The Masked Reader - where members of staff read an extract from their favourite story. Through the wonders of technology, their voices were then distorted along with their emoji covered identities and students were asked to identify the staff member based on a series of clues!

This proved a great success and definitely one we would like to repeat in the future. A big thanks to all involved.



Reading to help children in hospital



Following on from STAR Week and World Book Day, Year 7 students are currently participating in a Nationwide Readathon to raise money for books for children in UK hospitals. The charity 'Read for Good' encourages children to read, through its unique motivational approach, inspiring reluctant readers to give reading a go and keen readers to read more widely. Students can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audiobooks to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun! And, they are motivated to read because the money they raise in sponsorship, helps to provide a regular supply of brand-new books and a resident storyteller, to every major children's hospital in the UK.

Congratulations!

We are proud to announce that Ettie is the winner of the Mitchell Arts Centre (MAC) Writing Competition 2025. This was judged by professional writer, Catherine O'Reilly. Her poem about the city of Stoke on Trent really captures the city in a beautiful light.

The Enchantment of Stoke on Trent

*A city satiated of kiln and clay, the smell of oatcakes hold,
Stoke bores pottery to hands that mould,
The cobblestones along Gladstone hum,
As the symphonies of The Regent drum.*

*In a city of industry, the passion of the workers glow,
Aye up duck from Wedgewood to Spode, the legacy continues to grow,
Streams of the canal foraging through the street,
Whispers of history, where tales of tradition shall forever meet.*

*Furnished tapestries of six towns formed with determination and grace,
Each turn a blemish, each move at a slower pace,
Trentham Gardens, monkeys roam, illuminate with colours and sound
Where forgotten connections are ultimately found.*

*A city that's filled with honour and Bridgewater, where the seats of the potteries entwine,
Through the city creative, 'Mitchell Arts', forever forged in time,
Amidst a multi-cultural city, below her lit-up sky,
The soul and devotion of Stoke shall never ever die.*



Earlier this term we were very proud that Caitlyn became the first Walton student to speak in the House of Commons. Caitlyn also became the first Walton student to achieve the position as a Member of Youth Parliament for Staffordshire, earlier on in the year.



Caitlyn used research that Sixth Form Youth Parliament carried out in school, to pass a motion to end Period Poverty. She made a passionate speech in front of hundreds of Youth MPs from both the United Kingdom and the overseas territories, and this went out live to the world.

Thankfully, Caitlyn's speech helped pass this motion and 'Ending Period Poverty' is now taking centre stage for Youth MPs to now campaign on.

Well done Caitlyn.

UCAS DISCOVERY MANCHESTER 2025

The Year 12s visited the UCAS Discovery Exhibition in Manchester. They had the opportunity to speak to employers, apprenticeship providers and universities and came away with lots of ideas about their options for the future. This was an exciting start to the next steps after Sixth Form.

Stafford's Gotta Sing

Year 10 Yasmina wowed the audience with her rendition of 'Lay me down' at Stafford's Gotta Sing on 25th February. This was her first time performing in this annual event and what a fabulous performance she presented. Well done Yasmina!

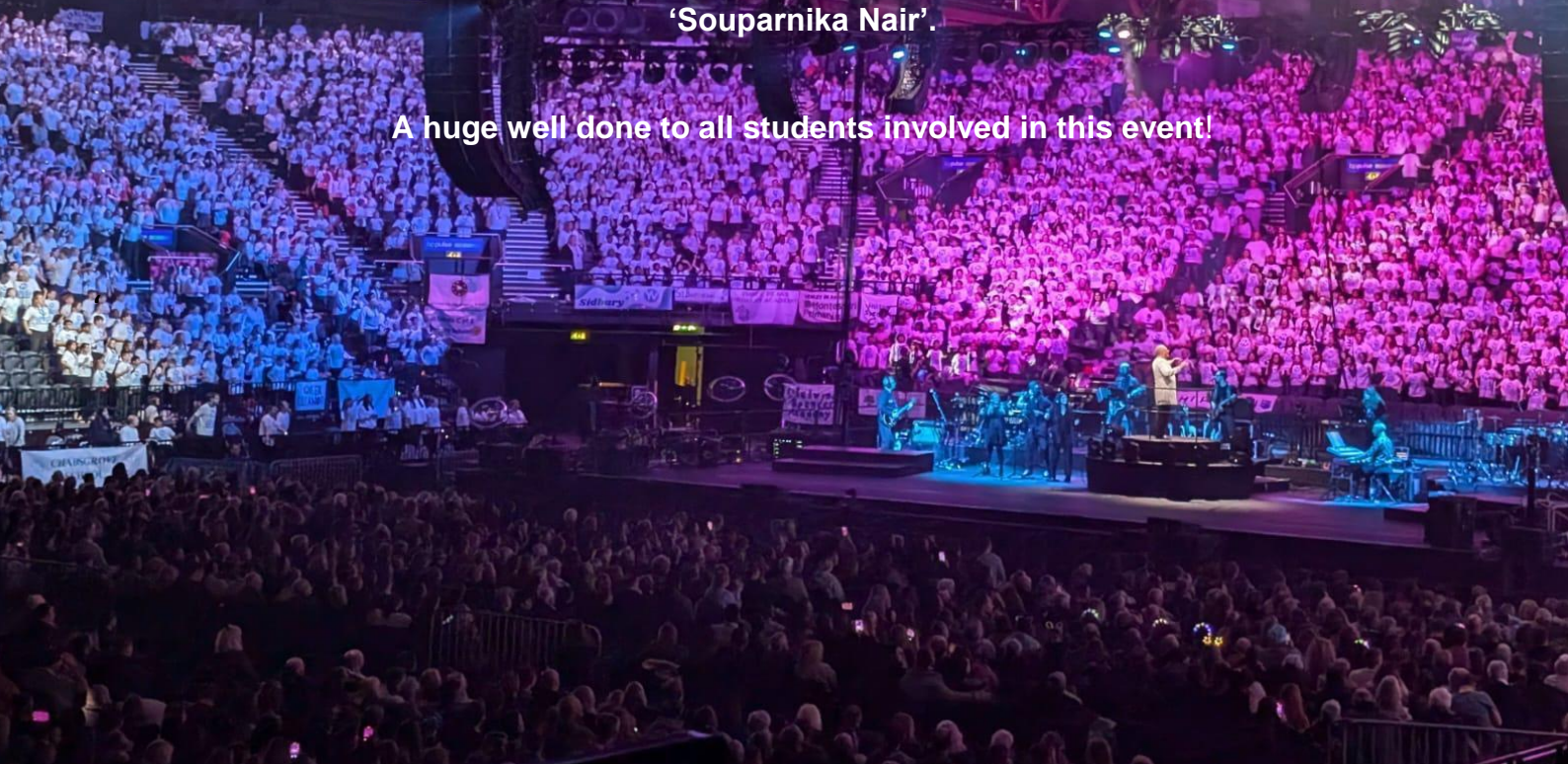


Young Voices Concert

Our Music department took 59 very excited students to perform at Young Voices in BP Pulse Live Arena in Birmingham at the end of January. The students performed with over 6,000 other students from schools across the country, a professional band and a professional dance crew.

The evening was an incredible experience for all involved; the students sung their heart out alongside rapper 'MC Grammar', Strictly star 'Tommy Blaize' and Britain's got talent star 'Souparnika Nair'.

A huge well done to all students involved in this event!



Pyramid concert

Walton, Berkswich, Barnfields, Oakridge and Leasowes joined forces this term for our annual Pyramid Concert. The five schools came together to perform two concerts as one mass choir in March, for parents, staff and governors. With the theme of '*An evening through the decades*', the 200 students travelled back to the 60s and ended the evening in the 00s.

The students came together twice to rehearse before the evening and performed exceptionally well throughout the concerts, accompanied by our Walton Band.





We held a celebration event for Bronze and Silver DofE students to receive their certificates and badges for completing their awards. They were presented by the headteacher and we are all very proud of their achievement.



Mr Fletcher, Deputy Headteacher, has constructed several swift nest boxes which have been installed at height in the appropriate locations. We now have a video camera and sound speakers to install next to the nest boxes. We should be able to witness the swifts nesting behaviour via the camera!

In addition, the speakers will play 'swift calls' to induce the migrating/nesting swifts to use our boxes, and fingers crossed we might get lucky?



These will hopefully be a great addition to the bees we have on site, in terms of Walton being a school committed to playing its part in conservation.

great Sporting moments

As our netball season comes to a close, our District Tournaments took place over the last few weeks.

The title of Under 16 District Champions was successfully defended by our Y11 team who have gone unbeaten all season. Hosted at Stafford Manor High School, the Y11 team captained by Hannah, won all their games, to be crowned deserved winners. Our Y10 squad also finished in second place, only beaten by our Y11s, which is an outstanding achievement for them and we can't wait to see if they can follow in the Y11s' footsteps by winning it next year. All the girls have been so committed all year and deserved the rewards for their achievements. Both Mrs Turner and Miss Hyde are so proud of their progress and achievement this year! (Photos of both teams attached)



The Under 14s (Y9) District Tournament again held at Stafford Manor High School saw our Y9 team put on a fantastic display of netball with only seven players due to illness and injury. The girls, captained by Evie-Grace worked so hard as a team and went through the tournament unbeaten, being crowned District Champions! This group of friends have trained hard all year and Mrs Turner was thrilled they were victorious!

Y7 and Y8 District Tournaments were held at Penkridge Middle School. Our Y8 team captained by Elodie played really well in the group stage to make the semi-final, narrowly being beaten by Sir Graham Balfour, but securing third place over all. This group has made steady progress this year and we can't wait to see how they fair next year. Year 7s are our brand-new team including girls from all our different feeder schools. They have developed their skill level and confidence this year and they have been ever present at training. They had a bare seven again due to illness and gave a really good

account of themselves in a very busy and long, round robin tournament. They won one and drew two, placing them overall in sixth position. Miss Hyde was really proud of all our Y7 and 8 players!



Cannock Gotta Dance



Some amazing dancers and gymnasts perform in the Cannock Gotta Dance show at the Prince of Wales Theatre in March. They were outstanding!



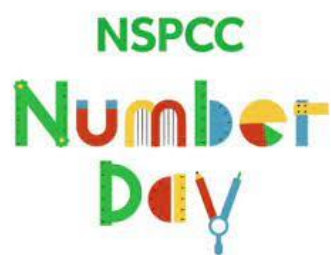
Huge congratulations to Ava who competed at the Yonex All England Badminton tournament for the U14 England team in March.

What a great achievement to represent your country.

We are so proud of George, Beth and Zach.

To have had three students racing in the English Schools' Cross-Country event in West Sussex was a huge achievement. They qualified through racing in two previous rounds.





Friday, 7th February, saw staff and students enjoying the best ever, (and first ever), Walton High School **NSPCC Number Day**.

To make it a day to remember, we held a Bake Sale and 'Fete' type event, along with a few activities during the week to whet everyone's appetite.

Students took part in darts competitions, guessed the number of sweets in a jar and tried balancing a coin on a lemon!

The event was a great success and we raised over £300 for the **NSPCC**.

This wouldn't have been possible without all the generous cake donations from students and parents so we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you.



HISTORY COMPETITION

This term students in Year 9 have been learning about the events of World War II in their History lessons.

Within this topic, students learnt about a mining village called Lidice in Czechoslovakia that had been bombed and destroyed by Nazi forces as an erroneous retaliation to the assassination of a Nazi leader, Reinhard Heydrich.

They learnt of the tremendous fundraising efforts of Stoke miners who gave up a day's pay per week to help with the rebuild of Lidice. These efforts have been commemorated by a memorial statue called 'Unearthed' outside the Victoria Hall in Hanley which is where the miners met to discuss how they would raise these funds.

Students in Mrs Evans' History classes were given the opportunity to take part in a competition to create an informative plaque that would go alongside the memorial. The students created some wonderful plaques, and it was lovely to hear students talking about the events and discussing what they were going to include.

The winners of this competition can now be revealed. The overall winner was Freya Cole 9.6 for her very informative plaque, and runners up were Ollie Mackley 9.2 and Beth Beeson 9.4 for their creative efforts.

Well done to all that took part.

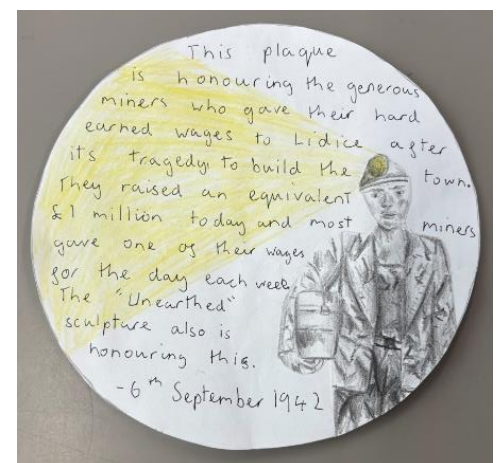


Ollie's entry



Winner's plaque

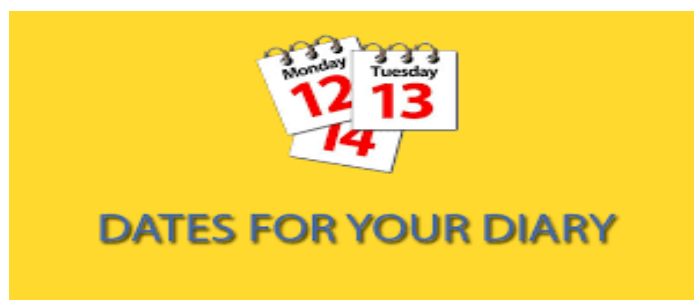
Freya Cole



Beth's entry



KS3 History Club students have been designing posters to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day on the 8th May. They have been created as part of a national competition set by the Spirit of Normandy organisation. The posters have been sent off to be judged by WWII veterans and we look forward to hearing how our students have done!



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|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 28 th April 2025 | Summer Term Begins- Students return to school |
| 5 th May 2025 | Bank Holiday Monday – School Closed |
| 26 th - 30 th May 2025 | Half Term Week |
| 2 nd June 2025 | Back to School |
| 27 th June 2025 | Inset Day – School Closed to students |
| 17 July 2025 | School Closes at 12.50 pm for Summer Holidays |