

Walton High School

Summer Newsletter 2026

Headteacher's Message

The Summer Term is always such a busy time in school, and this year has been no exception! I would like to thank all the staff, students, parents and carers who have been involved in or supported the many events over the last few weeks. There have been sporting successes in football, netball and rugby in addition to the Sports Mornings for Years 7, 8 and 9. Sixty-two Year 9 students successfully completed their two-day Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award on the weekend of 4th and 5th July. The music and drama department have worked hard to finish rehearsals to be ready for our spectacular production of Shrek: The Musical including two productions for local primary schools. All of this plus our many extra-curricular activities, clubs or educational visits are an important part of our extended curriculum and the hard work that goes into arranging them is much appreciated. As you look through our newsletter you will see a selection of the many things that make Walton a wonderful school in addition to our strong academic provision.

Work has continued with transition activities for both Year 6 into 7 and Year 11 into 12. We have welcomed our new Year 7 students to the school to take part in Transition Day. Students attended lessons across a range of different subjects and had the opportunity to make new friends in their tutor group. Year 11 students hoping to get a place in Sixth Form attended the two days of activities and taster lessons. As well as current Walton students we had a number who joined us from other local schools keen to experience life in our Sixth Form. Feedback on all of the transition activities has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to welcoming students back in September.

I would also like to share with you some excellent news regarding new funding for improvements to the fabric of the school building. As you may well be aware, our main building dates back to June 1968 when it was opened by Mr A G Ward. We were recently notified that we have been successful in our bid to improve the wiring and electrics in the main building with the Department for Education agreeing to significant investment to support a full rewiring of classrooms and offices from September 2026. Whilst some disruption to classroom spaces will inevitably occur, when the project is complete the school will be fit for the increasing demands of electrical equipment in the coming decades!

I hope you all have a lovely summer break, and I look forward to seeing everyone back safe and well in September.

Mr A Leese
Headteacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY 1 ST SEPTEMBER	Inset Day School Closed
WEDNESDAY 2 ND SEPTEMBER	School open for Y7 & Sixth Form
THURSDAY 3 RD SEPTEMBER	Y7 -Y13 in school
MONDAY 7 TH SEPTEMBER	School Photographer Y7-Y9-Y11-Y12
TUESDAY 8 TH SEPTEMBER	School Photographer Y7-Y9-Y11-Y12
TUESDAY 15 TH SEPTEMBER	Y12 Parents' Info Evening 6pm
TUESDAY 22 ND SEPTEMBER	Y7 Parent Forum - 6pm



A big well
done to
Year 7



Year 7 Geographers Explore Lichfield

At the start of June, our year 7 geographers went on a field trip to Lichfield to practise fieldwork techniques and conduct an investigation on the theme of Shopping.

The pupils represented the school brilliantly, showing curiosity, teamwork, and great behaviour across the four mornings. Since returning, they have been busy in lessons writing up their findings from the primary research they gathered during the trip.

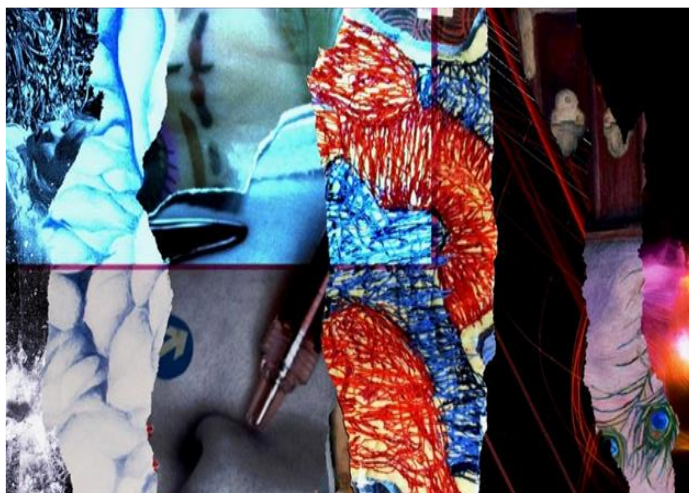
Art Dept

Our Year 12 Art and Photography Students visited Manchester City Art Gallery and The Whitworth Art Gallery. They had a fantastic day being inspired by the Artwork and seeing work first hand in the gallery setting (Despite the torrential rain students thoroughly enjoyed the day).



Annual Art Show

The Art department proudly exhibited the work of our GCSE and A-level Art and Photography students at the annual Art show held in our Sixth form centre. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the success of all of our student's hard work and undeniable talent.





Sociology Students Explore Social Sciences at Keele University

Our Year 12 Sociology students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Keele University with Mr Brindley as part of a Social Sciences Masterclass designed to raise aspirations and provide an insight into studying social sciences in higher education.

The day began with a warm welcome from university staff before students were divided into groups and introduced to a series of engaging academic sessions. The masterclasses gave students the opportunity to experience university-style learning and explore key ideas from the fields of Education, Sociology and Philosophy.

One of the sessions, **“We Don’t Need No Education: Just What Is the Point of Going to School?”**, encouraged students to think critically about the role of education in society. Through discussion and debate, students explored why education matters, how it shapes opportunities, and the challenges faced by modern education systems.

In the Sociology session, **“Society After AI,”** students examined the growing influence of artificial intelligence on everyday life. They considered how AI may transform employment, communication, education and social relationships in the future, while reflecting on the opportunities and challenges these developments may bring.

The Philosophy masterclass, **“Do We Know What We Think We Know?”**, challenged students to question assumptions and consider how knowledge is formed. Through thought-provoking activities, students explored concepts of truth, evidence and belief, gaining an appreciation for philosophical enquiry.

The visit also included time to enjoy lunch on campus and experience university life first-hand. Speaking with academics and spending time in a higher education environment helped students gain a better understanding of what studying at university could be like and the wide range of opportunities available to them.

We would like to thank Keele University for hosting such an engaging and informative day, and we look forward to building on the knowledge and inspiration gained from this visit within our Sociology

Year 12 Psychology Students Shine at Chester Zoo

Our Year 12 Psychology students had a wonderful day at Chester Zoo on their annual psychology trip, combining learning with an unforgettable experience outside the classroom.

The highlight of the day was an interactive **Primate Behaviour Workshop**, where students explored how psychologists observe and interpret behaviour in our closest animal relatives. The workshop was engaging, thought-provoking and gave students a real insight into how psychological research is carried out in the real world.

The visit also marked the exciting beginning of their own research journey. Over the coming months, every student will design, conduct and write up their own psychological investigation as part of a research competition in partnership with the **University of Derby**. We hope the workshop has inspired them as they begin this exciting challenge.

Most importantly, the students were an absolute credit to the school throughout the day. They embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, curiosity and maturity, asking thoughtful questions and representing the school brilliantly. It was a pleasure to spend the day with such a fantastic group of young people, and we can’t wait to see where their research takes them.



RE DEPARTMENT

Recently the RE department delivered a Whole School assembly to all Year groups on the benefits of volunteering and doing something additional outside the classroom.

Year 7 students have recently been exploring the vibrant Mexican festival Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) as part of their studies. They have learnt about how this special celebration honours loved ones who have passed away, focusing on traditions such as creating colourful altars, decorating with marigolds, and sharing favourite foods. Students have shown great enthusiasm and creativity, gaining an appreciation for different cultural beliefs about remembrance and celebration of life. Take a look at our Calaveras!

Volunteering can support your sixth form application

Volunteering can support your school and local community

Volunteering can support your UCAS application

Volunteering enables you to give back and develop social skills



Volunteering can support your prefect application

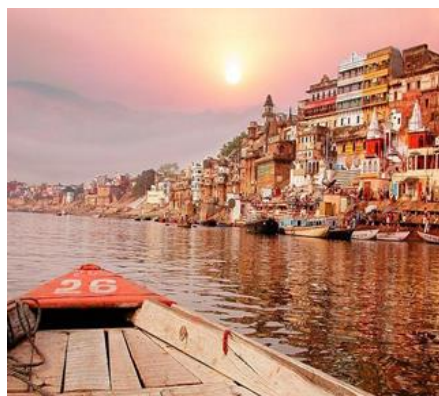
Volunteering can support your college application

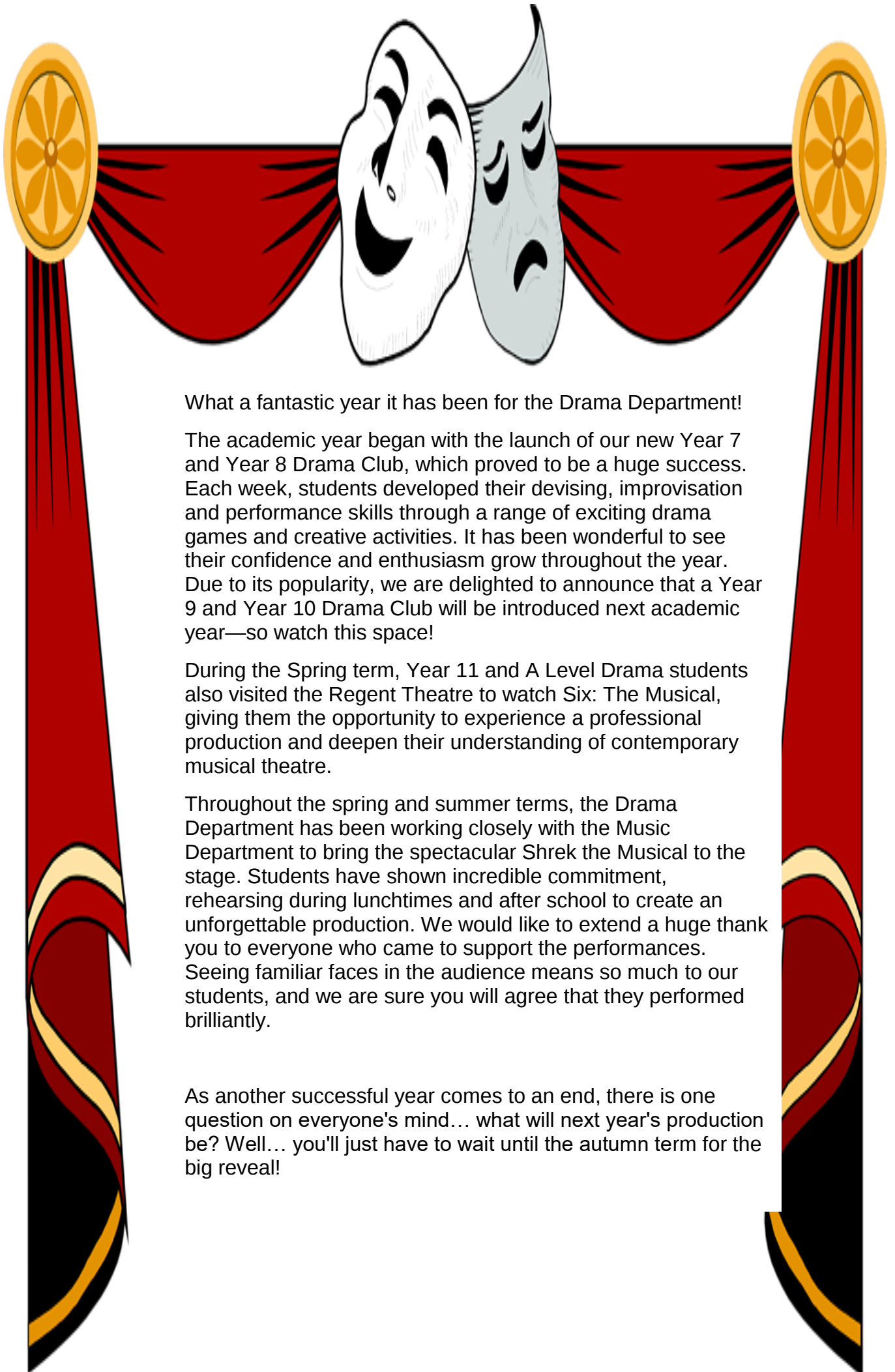
Every student should be able to say that they do **SOMETHING** outside their lessons:

- e.g.
- supporting primary schools sports day
 - belonging to an extra curricular activity club
 - representing the school in a team (football, netball...)
 - sitting on the school council

Year 8

Y8 have been studying pilgrimage and took on the role of travel writers for a pilgrimage to the River Ganges.





What a fantastic year it has been for the Drama Department!

The academic year began with the launch of our new Year 7 and Year 8 Drama Club, which proved to be a huge success. Each week, students developed their devising, improvisation and performance skills through a range of exciting drama games and creative activities. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and enthusiasm grow throughout the year. Due to its popularity, we are delighted to announce that a Year 9 and Year 10 Drama Club will be introduced next academic year—so watch this space!

During the Spring term, Year 11 and A Level Drama students also visited the Regent Theatre to watch *Six: The Musical*, giving them the opportunity to experience a professional production and deepen their understanding of contemporary musical theatre.

Throughout the spring and summer terms, the Drama Department has been working closely with the Music Department to bring the spectacular *Shrek the Musical* to the stage. Students have shown incredible commitment, rehearsing during lunchtimes and after school to create an unforgettable production. We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came to support the performances. Seeing familiar faces in the audience means so much to our students, and we are sure you will agree that they performed brilliantly.

As another successful year comes to an end, there is one question on everyone's mind... what will next year's production be? Well... you'll just have to wait until the autumn term for the big reveal!

The cast of Shrek



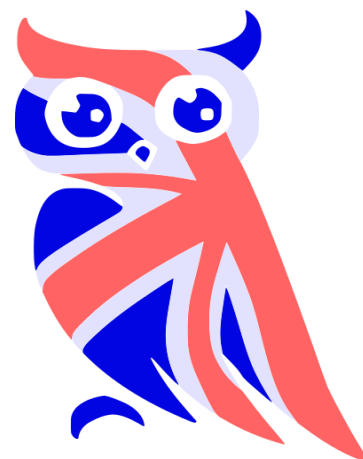
SCIENCE

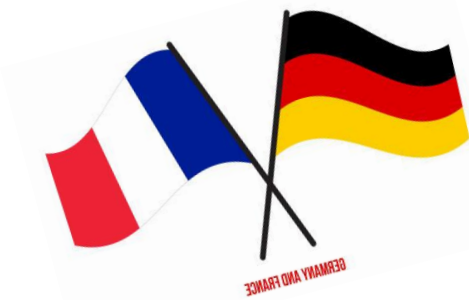


A group of very talented year 10 biologists took part in the Biology Challenge 2026, organised by the UKBC. This is a national competition with over 42000 students competing. Students are required to sit 2 online exam papers which test their skills and knowledge in Biology both within and beyond the curriculum.

I am delighted to announce that Lucy achieved the prestigious Gold award. Her score placed her in the top 5% of students nationwide. A fantastic achievement. Beth scored a Silver award which placed her in the top 10% of students. Finally Raja achieved a Bronze award which placed her in the top 15% of students. The competition also recognised and Highly Commended the scores of Mohammed and Letizia. We are very proud of these very talented biologists.

Thank you to all the year 10 students who participated. Your effort and dedication are greatly appreciated.





SCIENCE

We recognise the enormous contribution Sir David Attenborough has made to our appreciation of the natural world and the importance of his message of care for our planet. In honour of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday, we organised a week of commemorative events. This included the delivery of an assembly to each of our year groups, which celebrated his lifetime of service to wildlife broadcasting. We had fun with tutor-time activities, including informative reading and quizzes about his life and watching some of his most mesmerising nature clips. Our school canteen organised a celebratory birthday lunch on Friday 8th May for the entire school, with the canteen decorated with the themes of 'rainforest', 'under the sea' and 'dinosaurs'. In honour of Sir David Attenborough's message of environmental conservation and the impact of plastic pollution, our year 7 students took part in a school-wide litter pick during their PSHE lesson, where they collected almost 33kg of litter from our school playing fields!



Mr Stokes, Mrs Barnes and Mr Fletcher took 20 year10 pupils to Lake Constance in Germany from 19-21st June. Flying to Munich and then taking the train to the lake, pupils then spent 3 days soaking up the culture and the sun! Pupils spent a day across the border in Austria and visited a variety of sights along the lake, taking opportunity to practice their German language skills. Pupils conducted themselves perfectly and were great fun to be around. I think we would all describe the experience as WUNDERBAR!

Student Incentive 2026 – 'Champions League'



The incentive was to promote 'KINDNESS' in the classroom and around the school.

The categories were

- Outstanding Manners
- Exemplary Kindness
- Demonstrating Excellent Empathy
- Shows consideration to others

The competition was extremely popular with over 500 students taking part.

The winners were:

- | | |
|-----|----------------|
| 1st | Joshua, Year 7 |
| 2nd | Isla, Year 11 |
| 2nd | Codie, Year 10 |
| 3rd | Theo, Year 11 |



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Sixty-two Walton students completed the expedition section of their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award over the weekend. They all worked really hard in their teams to navigate the Peak District. They should all be extremely proud of how well they conducted themselves whilst representing Walking High School and the DofE.



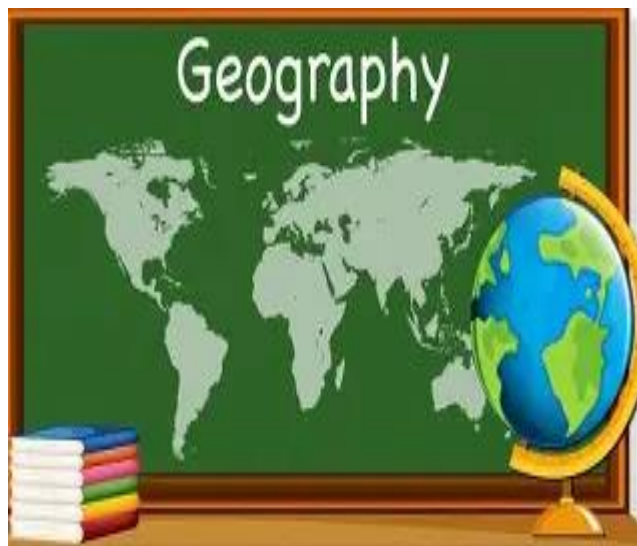


TECHNOLOGY

Year 11 Design & Technology student Poppy Carter has been invited to join the finals for Young Fashion Designer UK 2026, with her sustainable garment proposal. Poppy will be competing in the Year 10 & 11 bracket in Worcester early June. We are so proud of Poppy and her fantastic achievement!

POPPY HAS SINCE COMPLETED AND ACTUALLY CAME 2ND IN HER DIVISION





We wanted to take a moment to share how impressed we were with our Year 12 students on their recent geography fieldwork trip to Llandudno. They were polite, well organised, and represented the school exceptionally well throughout. We are very proud of them — well done to all involved!

The trip has also provided valuable preparation for their NEA. Students came away with a range of ideas, particularly around methodology, including approaches to data collection and how best to present their findings. This will be especially useful as they begin working on their NEA over the summer holidays.



Geography Department Annual Summary

This year has been an exciting and successful one for the Geography Department, marked by a fantastic range of fieldwork opportunities across all year groups. Students have benefited from engaging, real-world learning experiences, helping to bring their classroom studies to life.

Our Key Stage 3 students began the journey with a trip to Lichfield for Year 7, providing a valuable introduction to geographical skills and fieldwork. At GCSE level, students undertook their Paper 3 fieldwork experiences, with Year 10 visiting Cardingmill Valley to explore physical geography, while Year 11 investigated human geography in Stafford town centre.

At A-level, Year 12 students travelled to North Wales as part of their NEA preparation, gaining first-hand experience essential for their independent investigations. Across all trips, students showed enthusiasm, curiosity, and resilience—and were rewarded with mostly excellent weather, making the experiences even more enjoyable.

Alongside celebrating these successes, the department also says a heartfelt thank you and a sad farewell to Mr Egan. His dedication, passion, and lasting contribution to the Geography Department have made a significant impact on both students and colleagues alike. It is fair to say he will be greatly missed—particularly by the *Mr Egan Fan Association Club*, whose members will undoubtedly feel his absence most keenly.

We wish Mr Egan all the very best for the future and thank him for everything he has given to the department.



GEOGRAPHY SUMMER CHALLENGE



Over the summer select **5** activities.
Complete, take photos and email to
N.white@walton.staffs.sch.uk
Classcharts points and other prizes
will be award for the department's
favourite entries.



EXPLORE

DISCOVER

UNDERSTAND

OUR WORLD

Be **CREATIVE** and have a fun summer!

1 LANDMARK



Create a famous
landmark out of food.

2 TWEET



Complete a bird count
in the park or garden.
The RSPB has a great
guide to identifying
a bird.



3 GET OUT



Take a nature walk
in 3 different places.
Record the nature
you see.



4 MEME



Create a geography
meme.

5 COUNTRY



Learn about a country
you nothing about.

6 LEAF



Find five different
leaves and use them
to create some
artwork.



7 MONTAGE



Create a photo
montage for your local
area/street/holiday
destination.



8 TOURISM



Collect tourist leaflets
for your local place or
holiday destination
and evaluate whether
they are accurate
or not.



9 PEBBLE



Paint a pebble and
leave it somewhere
outside for someone
to find.



10 UPCYCLE



Upcycle a piece of
furniture or an item
of clothing.



11 SUSTAINABLE LIVING



Re-design your house
for more sustainable
living.



12 GEOCACHING



Try out geocaching.
Have a look at our
quick Geocaching
guide.



13 TREASURE ISLAND



Hide something for a friend
in your local area and create
a map/challenge for them
to find it.



14 WATCH IT



Watch a geographical documentary
and produce a summary of it.
You could produce an infographic,
notes or poster. Dual coding is a
great way to present information.
You could also use the Cornell Notes
method of note-taking.



EXPLORE. DISCOVER. UNDERSTAND. OUR WORLD.





Year 7s

All year 7 tutor groups took part in the Great Litter Picking Challenge. They had 20 mins to collect as much litter as possible and the bags were weighed at the end. Results as follows:

7.1 - 4.4kg

7.2 - 4.7kg

7.3 - 5.5kg

7.4 - 3.2kg

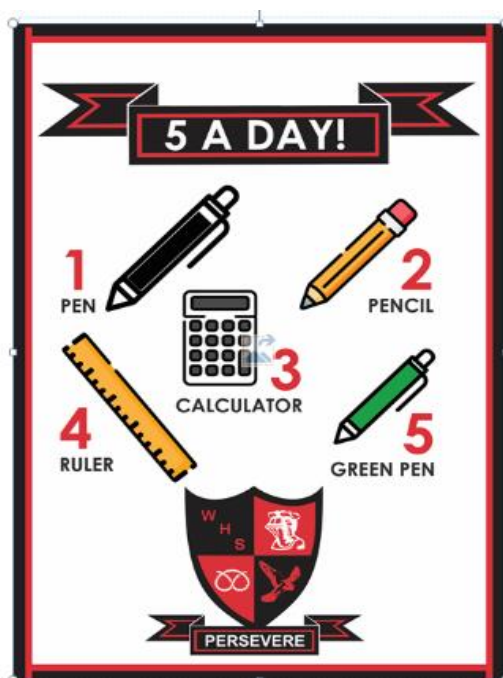
7.5 - 3.1kg

7.6 - 5.1kg

7.7 - 6.9kg (winners - pictured on the stage)

Total - 32.9kg

REMINDER





History

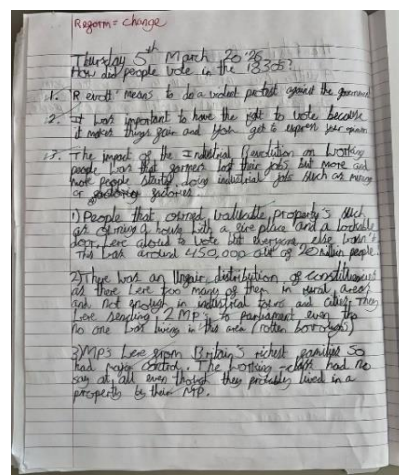
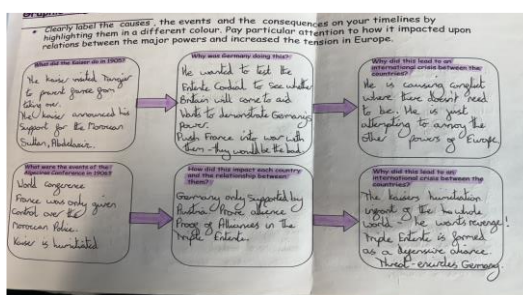
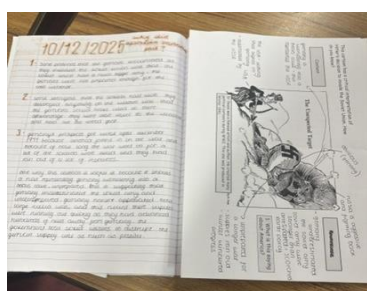
It has been a successful year in the history department this year. The history curriculum has continued to evolve with the development of our new assessment system that has challenged our KS3 students to be their very best; retaining information and seeing the links between periods of history. We have seen some excellent examples of attainment throughout all year groups, culminating in some excellent recruitment from year nine into GCSE history this year. We have seen some excellent examples of work this year.

The history department has also been fortunate to be able to contribute to the Lessons From Auschwitz project this year. Mr Pierpoint and Y13 students Charlotte and Enya were fortunate to be able to visit Poland in November 2025. It was a sobering experience and one that has had a profound effect on all of us. As part of the programme we were also able to hear a lecture from Holocaust survivor Anneke Lever. Her message of resilience, love and humanity was shared with all students this year by myself as part of the Holocaust assemblies in January 2026.

The Department would also like to highlight the following students as our stars of the year. These student's commitment to the subject have stood out this year for different reasons:

- Dominik 9.3- Excellent contribution to year nine history this year, and a brilliant work ethic
- Ruby and Bria 10B- A consistently brilliant approach to learning with some excellent assessment outcomes
- Eva 8.4- Excellent work on WW1 topic, and consistently outstanding assessment outcomes
- Isla 9.2- A brilliant start to GCSE History unit on Elizabethan England
- George 10A- Consistent hard work, positive ethic and resilience.
- Kiera 7.7. A positive approach in every lesson.

This year the department owes a big debt of gratitude to Mrs Jackson, Mr Turner and Mrs Ellement for their work in covering absence and maternity leave. Their commitment and their hard work has not gone unnoticed by staff or students. I wish all staff and students a restful summer break.





Business & Economics – A Term of Innovation and Debate

It has been another exciting and engaging term in the Business and Economics department, with students applying their learning to real-world challenges.

In Business, students have embraced a range of enterprise projects designed to develop creativity, teamwork and entrepreneurial thinking. Working with Mr Lemm, students explored how businesses can innovate existing products to appeal to new target markets, using market research and business theory to justify their ideas.

They have also completed their major end-of-year Enterprise Challenge with Miss Barnes, where teams designed, marketed and pitched a brand-new rollercoaster for Alton Towers. From creating unique themes and layouts to considering pricing, promotion and target audiences, students demonstrated fantastic creativity and presentation skills.

Meanwhile, Economics students have stepped into the shoes of government economists as they explored the fascinating world of macroeconomics. They investigated how governments manage the economy and took part in a lively debate asking the question: *Should taxes be increased to fund more schools?* Students represented different stakeholders, weighed up the costs and benefits of higher taxation, and defended their viewpoints using economic theory and evidence.

It has been fantastic to see students thinking critically, working collaboratively and applying classroom knowledge to realistic business and economic



It's been a busy year for Maths this year with lots of competitions for everyone to get involved in.

The year kicked off in September with not just one, but two national competitions - the UKMT Maths Olympiad for Girls, which saw Meg (Y13) achieve a distinction, and the Mathematical Competition for Girls in which 15 of our best female mathematicians in Years 11, 12 and 13 took part and achieved fantastic success. Liesha (Y11) coming top and also achieving a distinction!

October brought with it the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge and lots of our Key Stage 4 and 5 students opted in – a total of 67 students participated! The results were phenomenal: 25 Bronze certificates, 8 Silver and 4 Gold – Meg (Y13), Flynn (Y12), Sullivan (Y12) and Aditya (Y12). Aditya also achieve Best in School!

All of the Gold winners all went through to the next round – the Senior Kangaroo. The results were Bronze for Meg, Silver for Flynn and another Gold for Adi!

November gave us the opportunity to celebrate all things mathematical across the whole school during Maths Week England. Mrs Morgan organised a number hunt and the fabulous digit detective competition for everyone to get involved in. This year's winners were Mason (8.3) and Martha (7.7).

Upon our return after the Christmas break, we were straight into the UKMT's Intermediate maths challenge for students in Key Stage 4. 68 students took part with 17 achieving Bronze, 12 achieving Silver and 4 achieving Gold - Sam (Y10), Harry (Y10), Georgia (Y10) and Liesha (Y11), who also achieved best in school. The top three from this competition achieved scores that qualified them for the next round – the Pink Kangaroo!

February gave Mr Challis the opportunity to accompany four of our top A level Mathematicians to Oxford University where they participated in a challenging all-day competition, completing problem-solving tasks as a team to earn points. They worked really hard and finished in the top 25%. We are already looking forward to take more students next year.

The University of Liverpool provided all of our students the chance to do some maths over the half term holiday, many of whom brought in their entries for us to send off for them. Both Arul (Y7) and Isabelle (Y10) were awarded a Certificate of Merit for their efforts in their respective competitions, the MEM Challenge Competition and the MEM Senior Challenge Competition and had the opportunity to attend the Awards Evening at the University.

Following on from their amazing efforts in the Intermediate Challenge, March saw Harry, Georgia and Liesha competing in the second round of this competition – the Pink Kangaroo. Liesha went on to achieve Silver and Georgia absolutely smashed her way to another Gold!

April finally brought our younger students their opportunity to compete nationally and compete they did, with 59 Year 8s taking part. 17 scored enough points for Bronze, 8 achieved Silver and 5 managed to score enough points for a Gold award! For these five students – Nancy, Jennifer, Eva, Logan and Danica – their scores were enough to get them through to the next round – the Junior Kangaroo. This took place on June 9th – we are eagerly awaiting the results!

Throughout the year, we have been encouraging all of our students to keep practising their times tables with Ms Karim setting up regular challenges and battles.

The top three players from each year group are:

Year 7 – Amelia (7.6), Arul (7.5) and Ethan (7.6)

Year 8 – Macie (8.5), Mustafa (8.1) and Declan (8.7)

Year 9 – Ruvanesh (9.5), Tom (9.5) and Ava (9.7)

Year 10 – Alexis (10.2), Quinn (10.6) and Freddie (10.3)



