

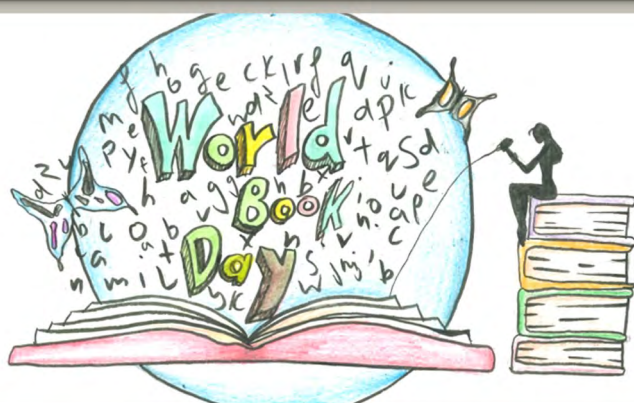


February 2022

NEWSLETTER - Issue 8

www.watling.academy

WORLD BOOK DAY



We're getting ready to celebrate the joy of reading for World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March.

The week beginning 28th February we will have activities running in tutor time and across all lessons.

We would really welcome any donations of books suitable for KS3 to help us run some reading activities across the different subject areas. Please send these into school with your child to be delivered to Mr. Quin in room 102.

In the run up to celebrating World Book Day, Mrs Hardie in Art organised a brilliant logo competition to help promote the occasion at school. Check out the runners up below and the final winner.

Well done to our overall winner Grishma Das and our runners up Yasmeen Khan, Skylar Richardson, Sukhpreet Obhi, Abigail Brandom and Elisha Pestell 7RWT and Blessing Darko 7DGR.



Mr Quin

Words from Mr Bacon - Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

One of the most important parts of our mission here at Watling is to ensure that as part of our curriculum and wider opportunities we focus on the importance of STEM, the development of Milton Keynes and the part we all need to play in creating a sustainable world that is kind to the environment. As you read through the newsletter for this half term, I think you will find numerous examples of activities, trips and events that focus on those three themes. I would like to thank students and staff for engaging so enthusiastically with those themes and I know that there are lots of plans in place to continue that work throughout the rest of the year.

It has been a very sad half term for the Denbigh Alliance Multi-Academy Trust following the untimely death of Mr Squires, our CEO, early in January and we have much to thank him for. It was through his vision and dedication that Watling Academy became part of the Denbigh Alliance and he spent many long hours working to ensure that the education, care and opportunity here would be the very best we could provide for our community. His legacy will benefit our students for many, many years to come and we will not stand still in continuing to deliver on his vision.

As the first signs of Spring are upon us with the trees slowly beginning to bud and the daylight lasting for longer it is always a time to look forward and think positively about the year ahead. From a Watling perspective the students have more trips and visits, House competitions, sports fixtures, a new range of clubs and much more ahead over the next half term and as always, I would urge every child to get involved and take advantage of the opportunities here.

I wish all the students a lovely half term break and look forward to seeing them back on Monday 21st February.

Mr I Bacon - Head of School

RECYCLED MUSIC INSTRUMENTS

This half term in their music lessons, Year 7 have been designing and creating musical instruments made from recyclable materials which has led to some fantastic and extremely innovative creations, some of which can be seen in the photos. I have seen milk cartons, crisp packet, washing up liquid bottles and endless cardboard online delivery boxes used to create some wonderful playable instruments. Not only have our students been using their impressive creativity skills, but it's also shown the students that creating and playing music with musical instruments really does not have to be costly if you use your imagination.

Well done to all of Year 7!



Mr Pearce

WATLING PRELOVED



As part of our sustainable ethos, we would like to invite our community to get involved in 'Watling Preloved'. The Friends of Watling (our PTA) will be collecting Preloved branded uniform (clean, good quality items only please!) for a sale later in the year. Funds raised will go towards supporting great opportunities for all our students. Uniform can be dropped into our collection box at reception.

The English department will also be collecting Preloved books which will be used to encourage students to try new genres and build their reading repertoire. Books can either be dropped into the collection box in reception or taken to Mr. Quin (Head of English) in room 102.

Ms Cox

PARKS TRUST



Parks Trust Assembly

Year 7 and Year 8 enjoyed an assembly from the Parks Trust this half term. Did you know that Parks Trust manage over 50 parks across Milton Keynes? We learned about following the countryside code; **Respect, Protect, Enjoy**. We also heard about the wide variety of careers that can be explored at the charity.

Laura, who works for the Outdoor Learning team, told us about Youth Explorers, a 5 week programme that works with 11-14 year olds and gets them learning about nature in their local park.

The next course starts on the 27th April at Howe Park.

For more information visit the following link: [Parks Trust](https://www.theparkstrust.com/youthexplorers)

Ms Cox

CHARITY DAY

On Friday 17th December, we invited all students and staff to wear non uniform to school (some wore Christmas jumpers). Everyone was asked to donate £1 towards a local charity—Willen Hospice.

We raised the grand total of **£298.12**

Well done to everyone who took part!

If you would like to donate directly please find the link below

[Give a regular or one off donation - Willen Hospice \(willen-hospice.org.uk\)](https://www.willen-hospice.org.uk)

£298.12

Ms Cox

ECO TRIP

First Ever KS3 Climate Change Summit

On Wednesday 26th January our Year 8 Eco Committee members represented Watling Academy at the first ever KS3 Climate Change Summit at the University of Bedfordshire. 15 schools attended this inaugural event, where local and national partners from across the education, research and the wider STEM sectors came together to enhance student's understanding of the science and implications of climate change.

The summit highlighted the challenges we face but also focused on what possible solutions there are and new future technologies. Year 8 Eco Committee will be sharing the experience of their trip and key messages with the wider student population through upcoming Eco form time presentations.



Ms Piper

ECO COUNCIL UPDATE



The eco-council have been very busy this term getting a plan together to achieve a 'Green flag award'. The council has started by looking into improving the biodiversity of the school and have several projects that will be running next term to support this goal.

Some of the projects running are wildflower planting to increase the number of insects around the school and installing a birdbox!

Students have also been working on waste and litter and how to improve these issues around school, so if you have any ideas make sure to tell one of your eco-council reps, you can see them about school and identify them by their badge!



Mr Adams

WATLING HAS TALENT

Students this half term have taken part in

Watling Has Talent.

The criteria we were looking for was creativity, uniqueness, and originality. We received over thirty entries for Watling Has Talent with an overabundance of talents from both year 7 and year 8.

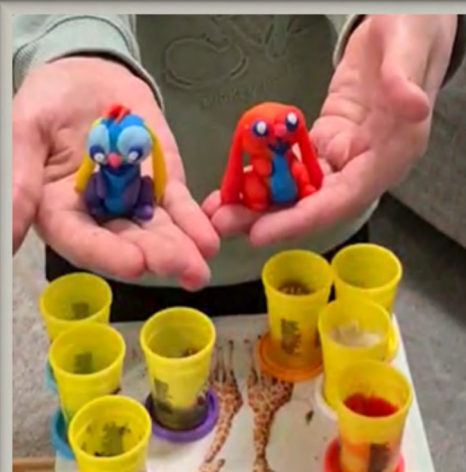
Students have displayed talents that they have learnt within school since the beginning of the academic year and their secret talents that they participate in outside of school.

The following students were awarded:

1st place – Jada Dacosta,
Parkour.

2nd place – Max Porter,
Drumming.

3rd place – Isaac Aziz,
Crafting



The students have received the first ever

Watling Has Talent trophies!

Mr. Pearce and I would like to say a massive congratulations to all the students involved, who sent us their videos, and took part in the Watling Has Talent house competition.



Ms Upton and Mr Pearce

SPORTS AT WATLING ACADEMY



Bucks Schools Cross Country

On Wednesday the 2nd February 2022 we attended the Bucks Schools Cross Country hosted in the grounds of the historic Stowe School. The seven students involved in this event had already impressed us with their performance at the MK Schools Cross Country event during the first term.

On a challenging course with hills and changing terrain, not to mention the wind, our students performed exceptionally well. Among very challenging competition they showed the ability to compete and strive to be the best they can be. These students showed incredible grit and resilience to complete this challenging course in very respectable times.

Thanks to Charlie Avery, Benito Bassett, Ernesto Bassett, Maxell Christon, May-Lou Bassett, Olivia Chilton and Sofia Butler who took part you demonstrated the 'Watling Way' and did your school proud. I look forward to seeing you challenge yourselves and strive to improve further in next years competitions.



A special mention must be made of the fantastic performance by Olivia Chilton who has had some incredible results lately running for her club and continued this incredible sequence of results with a seventh place finish amongst a very competitive field. This placing has led to Olivia qualifying for the English Schools Cross Country that will take place later this term. Well done Olivia and all of us at Watling wish you the best for the English Schools Cross Country.

Mr Stormer

Year 7 Boys Football

A huge well done to the Year 7 boys football team. The students have made an excellent start to their Watling Academy football journey with two successful fixtures. The Year 7 students beat Sir Herbert Leon confidently 9-0 and then a few weeks later beat Shenley Brook End 3-2 in a hard fought match with Watling scoring with just minutes to play. As a year group we are excited to see how they get on with their football fixtures in Year 7 and for the rest of their time whilst at Watling.

A big well done to the following players:

Shay Binns , Abiola Bello. Joe Maycock- Stribling , Hugo Hartwell, Tobi Monehin, Ayaan Asif, Nathan Quill, Cevdet Aydin, Maxwell Christon, Hazem El Amri, Caiden Semanhyia, Eli Boadi and Imraan Hussain

Mr Stormer

MK Schools Badminton

On Wednesday 10th of February, we took a team of 4 boys and two girls to the MK Schools Badminton Tournament hosted by Lord Grey School. The students that attended represented Watling Academy with pride and determination. They strived to do their best and demonstrated excellent resilience in some very challenges matches. This was rewarded by an impressive medal haul for Watling Academy, taking home 5 of the 8 medals on offer.

Congratulations to the following students:

Girls: Singles Runner up – Jenefa Repuri
 Doubles Runner up – Jenefa Repuri & Ella Rolfe
 Boys : Singles Runner up – Jago Lawrence
 Doubles Winners – Fares Hassan & Oscar Theobald
 Doubles Runner up – Waasil Sidik and Jago Lawrence



Mr Stormer

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Our after-school provision of clubs continues to be incredibly well attended. We have had over 300 students sign up and take part in a wide array of clubs. We have managed to split these clubs into year groups as required by our COVID restrictions, but hope soon that this restrictions will be removed and we can broaden our extra-curricular offer further.

Our current clubs will be continuing through until Easter with only minor changes and any students/parents involved in these changes will be notified directly. If you wish for your child to be added or removed from a club, could you please email admin@watling.academy your request. You will then receive a response to confirm your child's addition or removal from the club.

After Easter we will start a range of new after school activities, this information will be shared with parents prior to the Easter break and will allow parents and students to take time to think about the options and sign up for these clubs. We look forward to seeing the huge numbers of students that currently engage with after school clubs continuing to take full advantage of the provision and look forward to seeing some new faces getting involved as well.

Mr Stormer

HOUSE COMPETITIONS



During term this term we have started a real push on house competitions. To help promote this push we have some changes within the House allocation of Year 7 students to ensure form tutors and their tutees belong to the same house. This change will continue as new students enter the school, we believe it will help with building house culture, promotion of activities and developing the competitive component of a successful house system.

To drive the house system this term we have created a calendar of events that cover a wide variety of curricular activities. There are activities for Teams and individual activities, written and spoken, active and static. Our provision aims to give all students the opportunity to get involved in house competition. Some of these activities will take place during curriculum lessons, some will take place during non-lesson time (breaks and after school) and others will be set as challenges to be completed independently at home.

Currently, we have different leaders in all the overall house competitions that take place during the school year. There are different leaders in the Year 7, Year 8 and overall categories. These points totals are incredibly close and any house is still in a position to win all of these competitions, especially with the increase in house competitions this term.

I would to take this opportunity to encourage all students to actively get involved in the upcoming house competitions. These will be promoted in lessons and during tutorial. Students will learn and develop new skills, while demonstrating the knowledge and ability you already have. These competitions also serve as a fantastic platform for the developing the key components of an effective learner, such as creativity, planning, communication. Problem solving – to name a few.

Mr Stormer

SPANISH SPELLING AND TRANSLATION BEES



Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022

During the second term, the winners of Stage 1 of the Spanish Spelling Bee have been practising translating and spelling in Spanish up to 150 words in Spanish as part of their preparation for Stage 2. The competition itself took place during tutorial live in a virtual assembly with the rest of year 7. Students had to correctly translate and spell as many of the 150 words as possible in a minute. The students with the highest scores were then selected to take part in the Regional Competition where they will compete for a place in the National Competition

The winners of Stage 2 were:

Freya Kyd – 10 words correctly translated and spelt within a minute

Liana Hayfron – 10

Zaina Shaik – 11

Well done to everyone who took part. It is great to see everyone spelling words in Spanish using the Spanish alphabet. This will really help you with your learning in general

<http://www.flsb.co.uk/>

Mrs Honious

V & A INNOVATE COMPETITION



V&A Innovate competition finalists.

Our year 7 students took part in the V&A innovate competition as part of a STEM day at the end of October, and we are delighted to announce that Freya, Ollie, Ben, Maxwell and Lily from 7AOU have been selected as finalists.

They have been selected from 119 teams across the country and the judges were particularly impressed by how they identified a problem and user need, how well they communicated their idea through writing, drawing and the paper model, and how they reflected on their idea. The judges are really looking forward to hearing from the team at the Pitching & Awards Day.

Pitching & Awards Day is taking place at the V&A in London, South Kensington on 22 March. At this event, students will have the chance to present their ideas to the judges, take part in creative workshops, and be in with the chance of winning one of our V&A Innovate Awards: Best in Category, Student Choice, and Overall Winner. Please wish these students good luck, we are very proud of them.

Take a look at the V&A blog for more details on the competition.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/museum-life/va-innovate-national-schools-challenge-2021-2022-shortlist-announced>

Team 'Moffle's' design is a toy that supports isolated, lonely and anxious people to communicate with friends and family members.



Mrs Fuller

FOOD

Fantastic Food!

This half term in Food Technology, Year 7 students have been looking at the Eatwell Guide and healthy eating, particularly looking at fruit and developing practical skills with Fruit Fusions and Fruity Breakfast Muffins. After half term they will be working with vegetables and understanding their benefits. Pictured here are dishes by Annabel Morrissey, Bobby Taylor, Naomi Osunde, Olivia Abercrombie, Owen Tinkler and Ruby Heywood-Kenny.

Year 8 students have been exploring the functions of ingredients and developing their practical skills through Scrumptious Scones, Shortcrust Pastry and Savoury Tarts. Pictured beneath are dishes by Charlie Curtis, Esinam Attakpah, Jamal Javid, Jemima Coles and Olivia Johnston-Williams.

Well done to all students – there has been lots of fantastic food made!

Watch out for more information about the upcoming Easter Bake Off house competition – initial designs will be invited for submission after half term.



Annabel Morrissey



Bobby Taylor



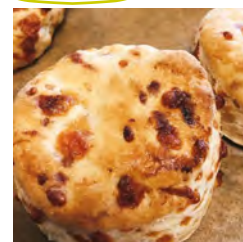
Charlie Curtis



Esinam Attakpah



Jamal Javid



Jemima Coles



Naomi Osunde



Olivia Abercrombie



Olivia Johnston-Williams



Owen Tinkler



Ruby Heywood-Kenny

Mrs Piper

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

REMINDER FOR NEXT TERMS TIMETABLE

- w/b Monday 21st February Week A
- w/b Monday 28th February Week B
- w/b Monday 7th March Week A
- w/b Monday 14th March Week B
- w/b Monday 21st March Week A
- w/b Monday 28th March Week B

NEW CASHLESS CANTEEN SYSTEM

The new system has been in place since the start of term and is working well, most parents have given consent for their child to have their biometric fingerprint taken to be used at the tills. If you have not given permission and would like your child to be able to use their fingerprint instead of a pin, please email admin@watling.academy and we will arrange for this to be actioned.



Congratulations to Miquill our Caterers who after a surprise visit today have been awarded 5 stars by the Environmental Health Inspector (the maximum score).

Well Done to everyone involved!



Thank you to parents and carers who have registered for our new Parent/Carer communication and payment software. We will be sending all parent communication via Iris ParentMail as well as parents and carers being able to top up their child's lunch account and paying for items including pencil cases and lockers. We would also encourage you to download the app onto your phone because as well as being able to do all the above you can also report any absences or appointments of the app, please search for Iris ParentMail in your App Shop.

DATA COLLECTION SHEETS—IMPORTANT

Data Collection Sheets will be sent home with your child on Monday 21st February, can you please ask them for this sheet. Please check that the information on it is correct, if not please amend, then sign and send back for students to hand to their Tutor and we will update your details, please sign and send back even if all the details are correct. This is a private and confidential sheet, so please remind your child to hand it back promptly by Friday 25th February 2022. Thank you.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS OVER HALF TERM

The school office will be closed during half term from 5pm on Friday 11th February until 8am on Monday 21st February. If there is anything urgent then please email to admin@watling.academy and we will aim to respond as soon as possible.

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

February 2022

Issue 8

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Dates for your Diary:

End of Term

Friday 11th February
(School closes at 3:15pm)

School re-opens

Monday 21st February

PTA Meeting

Monday 7th March
(6:30pm–7:30pm)

National Careers Week

Mon 7th–Fri 11th March

National Pi Day

Monday 14th March

Comic Relief Day and Non Uniform Day

Friday 18th March

Women in STEM Trip

Wednesday 23rd March

Year 8 Subject Consultation Evening

Wednesday 23rd March
(4:00pm to 7:00pm)

Parent Drop-in

Thursday 24th March
(7:45am–8:15am)

Year 8 Subject Consultation Evening

Wednesday 30th March
(4:00pm to 7:00pm)

End of Spring Term

Friday 1st April
(School closes at 3:15pm)

Good Friday - School Closed

Friday 15th April

Easter Monday - School Closed

Monday 18th April

Additional Day in lieu of Queens

Jubilee Bank Holiday–School Closed
Tuesday 19th April

School re-opens

Wednesday 20th April

LOST PROPERTY



This is a small selection of our **unnamed** lost property that cannot be returned to their owners. Can you please ensure all school items are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Please remind your child to look in this cupboard as soon as an item goes missing.

ATTENDANCE

A polite reminder for parents to please advise our Attendance Officer of any student absence before 8:00am each day. Can you also please advise in advance of any appointments for students made during the school day.

Please email attendance@watling.academy or report via ParentMail App or call 01908 794094 choosing the attendance option.

Thank you.

Mrs Gaughan

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

During these unprecedented times we encourage students and parents to look after yourselves and others by adhering to the Government guidance.

Advice is available on protection measures, employment and financial support, education, travel and public services.

Together we can make a difference. Follow the guidance, support each other and take care.

The latest advice and information can be found here

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



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Website: <https://watling.academy/>

Email: admin@watling.academy

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and KINDNESS