



UKRAINE COLLECTION

A massive thank you to everyone who donated blankets, sleeping bags, nappies and much more needed items for Ukraine. All of these items have now arrived at Ukraine Refugee Camps with the help of DSV Logistics, Milton Keynes. Watling Academy worked with Denbigh, Shenley Brook End and Hazeley to make this happen.



Mrs Barford

**Words from Mrs Barford -
Deputy Head of School**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a tremendous term and as always, I can't help myself but say, how proud I am of the students and staff at Watling Academy.

Student leadership has had a massive impact on our work this term. From organising charity days, loading up the minibus with items to be sent to Ukraine, to planting trees and Watling students being elected to Milton Keynes Youth Parliament, Watling Academy students have firmly led the way emphasising each one of our core values.

I am overjoyed at the number of our students taking part in the extra-curricular opportunities staff have put in place. The standard of the bake-off competition was fantastic, and the effort put in was immense. If only I had thought to introduce the Barford handshake (ref. Bake Off Ch 4) as a 'thing' to be talked about in years to come!

We have successfully got through to 2 National Finals - the 'Spanish Translation Bee', and the 'V & A Innovative Challenge'. It is great that our students are putting our school's name out there on the National platform. As for the reciting Pi competition, I still find it hard to believe that the winner was able to recite Pi to 197 digits.

How is this even possible? Tremendous work!

I would like to thank all parents for your support when we asked Year 8 students to work at home due to staff absence with Covid. This was far from ideal but I hope, that with the increased confidence in working using Microsoft Teams, students were able to continue with their learning.

I would like to wish all students and parents a safe and relaxing 2 week break, and I look forward to seeing all students on their return to school on Wednesday 20th April.



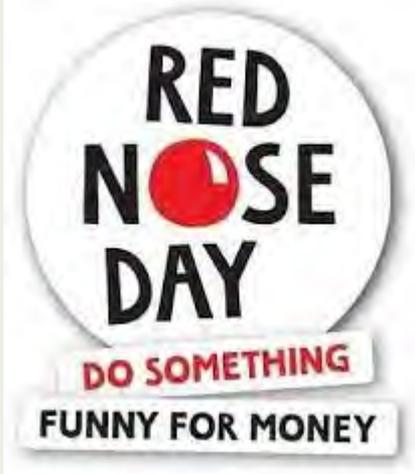
DT – FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

In Food this half term, Year 7s have been continuing with their focus on why it is important to include a variety of fruit and vegetables in our diet and have made Vegetable Curry, Top Toasties and Fruity Crumbles.

Year 8s have continued to explore the function of ingredients by making different doughs for their Pasta, Bread Rolls and Pizza, a roux-based sauce for their Macaroni Cheese, as well as a batter for their Fruit Based Cake.



CHARITY NEWS!



On Friday 18th March, staff and students wore red for a non-uniform day to support Comic Relief Red Nose Day.

Everyone donated £1 and wore their Deeley Boppers and Red Noses with pride.

Students told staff their funniest jokes and if it made them laugh they received a house point.

At the end of the school day, the Student Council had a bake sale (from cakes donated by our canteen caterers Miquill) This raised over £70 which has been added to the amount we raised for Non-Uniform Day. You can still donate on ParentMail or directly to Comic Relief using this link <https://donation.comicrelief.com>

Well done everyone!

Here are some photos of students and staff having fun on the day!



Ms Cox

MK SCHOOLS MATHS CHALLENGE

Four of our year 8 students attended the Milton Keynes Schools Maths Challenge Competition. They had several challenging problems to solve and had to work together as a team to complete the puzzles in the quickest time. The competition level was very high, but it was a brilliant effort by the students representing Watling Academy and we look forward to taking part again next year. Well done to Darren, Malika, Joshua and Shreeya for their valiant effort.



*Mrs Wall &
Mr Williams*

MK SCHOOLS YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Make Your Mark 2022

All form groups contributed to the annual Milton Keynes Youth Parliament 'Make Your Mark' campaign. This is an opportunity for 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say and begin their democratic journey by voting on the policies they want to introduce or change. The issues voted as most important will be the focus of the UK Youth Parliament's 2022 campaigns.

The top three issues that students at Watling voted for were:

- Education
- Environment
- Jobs



Secondary schools across Milton Keynes will submit their votes; last year over 7,000 students took part! This is a great way for our students to contribute to the ongoing development of Milton Keynes.

Ms Cox



Issue 2 - March 2022

eco news

Brought to our students by Walling Academy Eco Committee

Tree-mendous Trips

Tree planting

By Mr Adams

In February the Eco Committee enjoyed a morning out to Middleton Wood and, with The Parks Trust's support, planted more than 70 saplings. This is going towards a new wood meadow that will increase green spaces in MK. Students then took their knowledge from The Parks Trust and applied this to the school where we are currently having a push to improve our green spaces.



Hazeley Wood

By Ms Cox

Back in December, the Eco Committee went on a trip to Hazeley Wood as part of the Parks Trust Environmental Awareness session. Just before October half term, the Eco Committee ran a form time competition to design the logo for the Committee and the two forms who engaged the most with the competition also got to go out on this trip.



Climate Summit

By Brenny Pearl

In late January, the Year 8 Eco Committee travelled to the University of Bedfordshire to attend the first ever Key Stage 3 Climate Summit. We took part in an introductory quiz, which gave us lots of information. We then learnt how we are a 'Carbon Civilisation', and how we can help the environment. We then took part in a workshop, which helped us learn about food production and how we can prevent mass wastage of food. Afterwards we met environmental activist Serena Bashal, who talked to us about how we as young people can help the planet, as well as telling us about her time at COP26. We then met different companies at an exhibition. They explained what they are trying to do to help the planet. To close the day, Serena, as well as other speakers, answered our questions about how they help the planet in their roles. It was a very interesting and informative trip, and I am sure that everyone who attended it thoroughly enjoyed it.



BIODIVERSITY

By Mrs Honious

Students have planted 50 seed bombs in the courtyard area to hopefully attract a range of animals and insects into this space. Looking forward we are going to continue working around the school site to improve where we can.



Eco-Schools

Application checklist

- ✓ STEP 1 - Eco Committee
- ✓ STEP 2 - Environmental Review
- ✓ STEP 3 - Action Plan
- ✓ STEP 4 - Curriculum Links
- STEP 5 - Informing and Involving
- STEP 6 - Monitoring and Evaluation
- STEP 7 - Eco Code

Action topics:

#Waste #Litter #Biodiversity

The Big School Clean 2022

By Ms Piper

Throughout this final week of the Spring term, Eco Committee members are pairing up with students from the wider school community to take part in The Big School Clean 2022. This is a campaign to inspire children to get involved with caring for the environment, and is a partnership between children's author Sarah Roberts and charity Keep Britain Tidy. It's the seventh year of the campaign and this year is taking place from 25 March - 10 April. Take part at home too as part of The Great British Spring Clean!



BAKE OFF COMPETITION

A huge well done to all of the 35 individuals/pairs who entered the Watling Easter Bake Off House Competition – the overall standard was high and it was a very tough decision for Ms Piper, Mr Parks and Mrs Wall to select just two designs/plans for each to go through to the final Bake Off.

14 students represented their houses in the final Bake Off last Thursday and here are the results....

Runners Up (3 House points each)

- Rutherford
- Skye—Chocolate Cherry Cake
- Marshall
- Kara and Lara—Easter Bunny Cake
- Leyh
- Sofia—Easter Lotus Biscuits
- Turing
- Lily—Upside down Bunny Cake

3rd Place (5 house points)

- Turing
- Ruby and Sienna
- Bella Bunny Chocolate Fudge Cake

2nd Place (10 house points)

- Laine
- Demi and Sophie—Easter Cake
- Marshall
- Lydia—Early Bird Cheesecake



**1st Place
(15 points each)**

Rutherford
Nya
Easter Tomb Cake
Leyh
Sam and Theo
Chocolate Burrow Cake










Ms Piper

SPORTS AT WATLING ACADEMY

Year 8 Girls Football Tournament



A huge well done to the Year 8 Girls Football team who recently competed in a 5-side football tournament over at Walton High on their power league pitches. They competed well and came runners up in their pool, which meant they were into the finals. In the semi-final the girls were up against Denbigh, where at full time it was 1-1, after 2 minutes extra time, it was 2-2. The referee decided to play a golden goal (next goal wins) rule and Denbigh managed score first. Watling Academy girls were so disappointed, but they had done so well, and they should be so proud of themselves.

They came 3rd overall, narrowly missing out in the semi-finals.

Miss Scarr

Junior NBA

This term we have had the opportunity to play in the Year 8 Junior NBA competition alongside 4 other Milton Keynes Schools, 30 schools are taking part in this nationwide competition. The competition started with Watling Academy being chosen to play as the Utah Jazz and receiving new playing kits.

Basketball clubs this year have been attended well and the development of skills among attendees has been clear for all to see. The students selected to represent us in this competition have played with pride and been fantastic examples of what we represent at Watling Academy. At this point we have played 6 games and have 2 games to complete after the Easter break. The calibre of the competition has been excellent. It has been clear that with each game we play our students are developing their basketball specific skills, but also soft skills such as resilience, leadership and teamwork.

Basketball at Watling Academy has a very promising future if the current group of Basketball playing talent remains committed and hard working as they make their way through Years 7-11.

Miss Scarr



HOUSE FOOTBALL COMPETITION

On Tuesday 1st March, 30 girls from Watling Academy signed up and participated in a Girls Interhouse Indoor Football competition. All the students got really involved in the event and represented their houses with great pride in a competitive and respectful manner. It was a close competition all the way through, even during the play-offs. Well done to all the girls involved and we are planning the next Interhouse competitions already, so keep an eye out for those.

1st



2nd



3rd



4th



5th



Miss Scarr

FIXTURES AND EXTRA CURRICULUM CLUBS

There have been several other fixtures here at Watling Academy this term, including Netball, Badminton and Football. It is great to see so many students attending the sports clubs and wanting to represent their school. Next half term, we will have more sports clubs on offer for the students to attend and a whole range of fixtures and sporting events for students to get involved in.

Mr Stormer

SPANISH TRANSLATION BEE



The following students took part in Stage 2 of the Spanish Translation Bee competition on Wednesday 9th March.

Kiera Gray – Leyh, Cindy Odiba – Leyh, Jenisha Chandravathanan – Marshall, Eleanora Awetam – Marshall, Brenny Pearl – Rutherford, Gabriel Madureira – Laine, Shreeya Machireddy - Turing, Bayleigh Stone – Turing

Students had to correctly translate into Spanish as many of the present tense and immediate future tense sentences as possible in a minute. This took place during their assembly in front of the rest of their year group. For the students taking part, as well as demonstrating their impressive ability to translate sentences into Spanish, it was a great opportunity for them to improve their confidence speaking in front of a large audience. For those watching, it was fantastic to witness what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance. Well done to all those who took part.

THE WINNERS ARE:



The winners of the School Competition will now compete in a regional final against other schools in the south east of England. If they are successful, they may then compete in a National Final.

Please wish them luck if you see them.

Mr Scott & Mrs Honious

WORLD BOOK WEEK

Thank you for all your book donations to help us celebrate World Book Week. We had a wonderful day full of lots of activities.

We ran DEAR (drop everything and read) sessions throughout the week where at a surprise time during the day all students had to stop what they were doing and enjoy a blissful, engaging and relaxing 30 minutes of reading. It was wonderful to hear the buzz this created around the school with students trying to guess when the DEAR time would be then discussing what they had read afterwards.

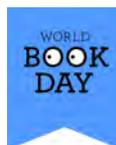
As well as this, all staff chose a favourite book and displayed the cover and a quotation around the school. The students were then able to complete a scavenger hunt to find the different books. Well done to Rutherford House for winning the competition to find the most correct answers.

In tutor time students completed various book related quizzes including a 'sheltie' competition where students had to guess the member of staff based on a photo of their bookshelf.

We also ran a house competition to write a poem themed around 'where can reading take you?' We had some wonderful entries including honourable mentions to: Abigail Brandom 7RWT, Erin Frosdick 8RST and all of 7RWT for taking part!

2nd place—Khadija Memon 8LSR and Year 7 Chloe Ababio 7RWT

1st Place— Eleanora Awetam 8BPR and Ava Pope 7JHE



We set out to create a buzz about reading for World Book Week and we were so pleased to see students discussing with staff and each other the books they were reading. It is important for our students to see reading as something not just done in isolation but something we talk about and share. Also, to see that reading isn't just good for our education but for our enjoyment and wellbeing.

Please continue to support us by making sure your child has a book in their bag for silent reading times in their tutor times and English lessons. Please keep any pre-loved book donations coming to reception where we will find a good home for them! Thank you for your support.

Ava has kindly agreed to share her wonderful poem. Very inspiring!

Ava—7JHE

*You can wander
Like a river.
Nowhere to go,
No one to see.
Reading can let you wander.*

*You can fly
Like a dove.
Floating above the clouds,
A forgotten balloon.
Reading can let you fly.*

*You can run
Like a gazelle.
Roaming free,
Without a care in the world.
Reading can let you run.*

Mr Quin

V & A INNOVATE TRIP

V&A

Team Moffle (Year 7), finalists in the prestigious V&A Innovate National Schools Challenge for year 7, 8, 9, travelled up to London this month to pitch their idea to a panel of judges, V&A staff, and the other selected teams.

The standard was set very high from the beginning, but when it came to their turn, Ollie, Freya, Lily, Ben and Maxwell acquitted themselves brilliantly, pitching to a packed Sackler auditorium (Ollie even cracked an off the cuff joke that raised a laugh!).

The atmosphere was great, very supportive and rightly celebrated each team's contribution to the day. There were awesome cakes afterwards, inexplicably turned down by some of our students.

Although Watling came away with no award this time, being selected as finalists was a fantastic achievement in itself. The judges expressed their admiration for all participants, one judge moved to tears by the courage of students who overcame nerves to step into the spotlight and engage an audience with their amazing ideas. Time constraints meant that we didn't have the time to fully experience the museum before heading home, but students did participate in two workshop sessions led by V&A staff, who introduced students to some of the collection.

Team Moffle departed the museum looking forward to their next visit, eager to experience more of the what the V&A has to offer.

There is already talk of next year's competition...

Congratulations to all the winners on the day, further details on this link <https://www.vam.ac.uk/info/innovate>



*Miss Okutu &
Mr Bailey*

YOUNG WOMEN IN STEM/CYBER

On Wednesday 23rd of March, Miss Willetts and I had the great privilege to escort 19 of our year 7 and 8 girls to the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. The day was centred around Cyber challenges and team work to hopefully inspire young women in STEM related industry and education.

Our first session was around Cyber Security and how cyphers can be decoded. We started with a simple Caesar encryption and moved onto using letter frequencies (e is the most commonly used letter in the English language followed by t) as a way of cracking codes. Extremely apt challenges at Bletchley Park. A simple Caesar encryption works by shifting letters along in the alphabet. For example: An "A" might shift letters to become an "E" with "B" shifting to "F". Our girls were "FVMPPMERX"!

Our second session took place in the Tunny Room at Bletchley Park and involved cracking codes in teams to prevent a computer virus escaping. Again, our girls were amazing and the instructor for the session commented on the speed and accuracy at which our Watling Academy students solved the problems.

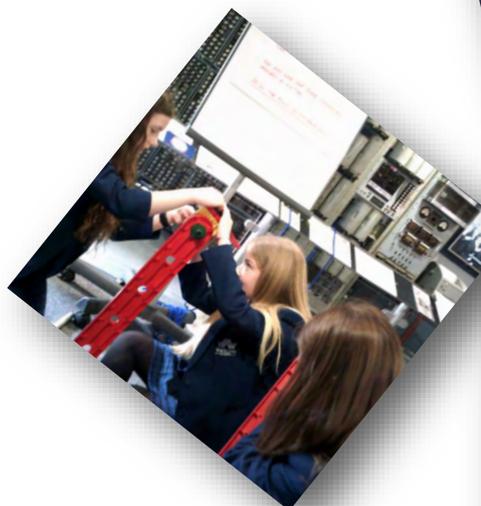
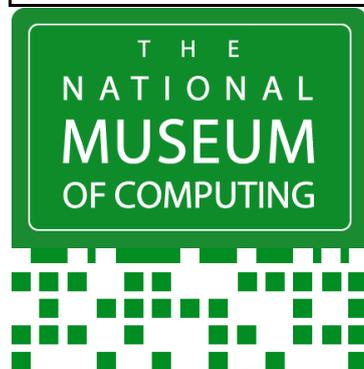
In our third session the girls were looking at and handling the hardware that we use in computing for storage and processing. We learned about HDD and SSD types of storage and also looked at streaming versus downloading including the environmental impact of using broad bandwidth and data rich streaming. Did you know...? Turning off the camera in a video call saves 96% of the energy and carbon emissions generated. That means if you are having meetings with your pyjamas on and the camera off – you are not being unprofessional – you are saving the planet!

After a glorious picnic lunch outside in the sunshine our girls were then challenged to find out about women in computing. This was a fun challenge where they were given the run of the museum with tablets and clues to find and questions to answer. When the girls had beaten the previous schools to do this challenge some of them got to have a play on the old PC and gaming machines in one of the museum's display rooms. I am probably the only one old enough to remember playing Manic Miner on a ZX Spectrum.

Following on from this the students worked with the RAF to complete a team challenge to construct a model communications tower ensuring that the dishes were both high enough and far enough apart to be successful.

Some of us had to return to the academy at this point, but those that remained behind worked with the staff on trying to address the gender imbalance that currently exists in many industries. Our girls were commented on about their "forthright opinions and ideas". Again, well done!

Thanks for this wonderful experience must go to the National Museum of Computing for hosting a truly inspiring and challenging day but mostly to our girls who rose to the challenges and showed what wonderful students we have at Watling Academy.



Mr Bartlam, Mr Houghton & Miss Willetts

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

REMINDER FOR NEXT TERMS TIMETABLE

- w/b Monday 18th April Week A
- w/b Monday 25th April Week B
- w/b Monday 2nd May Week A
- w/b Monday 9th May Week B
- w/b Monday 16th May Week A
- w/b Monday 23rd May Week B

WATCH

THIS

SPACE

TRIPS DAYS

THURSDAY 26TH MAY AND
FRIDAY 27TH MAY!

More exciting details to follow soon for both Year 7 and Year 8.



Watch out for ParentMail correspondence after the holidays!

AWARDS EVENING

END OF JULY TERM (Date TBC)

We will be having an Awards Evening at the end of July.

Full details to follow soon.



IRIS | ParentMail

Just a reminder that you can check your child's balance on ParentMail in Accounts. If you want to see what they have been purchasing/eaten please click on Account, Dinner Top-up, click on the right hand arrow, click on statements at the bottom right of the screen and then click on each transaction which will give you the items they purchased i.e Jacket Potato, pasta etc.

If you have any queries please email admin@watling.academy and we will be happy to help.

JOIN US AT WATLING ACADEMY

Could you be the next School Caretaker for our growing Site Team? Are you interested in joining us as a Teaching Assistant? For details of these posts, and other opportunities to join the Watling Academy Associate Staff team, please check out the website <https://watlingacademy.net/join-us/> over the coming weeks.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS OVER EASTER HOLIDAYS

The school office will be closed during the Easter Holidays from 5:00pm on Friday 1st April until 8:00am on Wednesday 20th April. If there is anything urgent then please email admin@watling.academy and we will aim to respond as soon as possible.

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

April 2022

Issue 9

www.watling.academy

Dates for your Diary:

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

PTA Meeting

Monday 25th April

Year 7 Subject Consultation Eve

Wednesday 27th April

Bank Holiday—School Closed

Monday 2nd May

Year 7 Subject Consultation Eve

Wednesday 4th May

Local Elections—Sports Block

Thursday 5th May

Parental Drop-in—3:15pm

Thursday 5th May

Year 7 Subject Consultation Eve

Wednesday 11th May

Year 8 End of Year Exams

Mon 9th May—Friday 13th May

Year 7 End of Year Exams

Mon 16th May—Friday 20th May

Trips Days

Thursday 26th May

Friday 27th May

End of Half Term

Friday 27th May
(School closes at 3:15pm)

School re-opens

Monday 6th June

LOST PROPERTY



Do you recognise any of these coats? This is a small selection of our Lost Property. None of these items are named so we cannot reunite them with their owner. If your child has lost their coat or any other item, please ask them to go and check the Lost Property Cupboard and Rail. Some of the coats look brand new!

Thank you.

Mrs Gaughan



*Happy Easter
and
Ramadan
from all the staff
at
Watling Academy*

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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**RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY
and KINDNESS**