



MK Mayor's 'Cycle September Awards'



Thomas Young from 8BUN was delighted to meet the Mayor, Mohammed Khan and receive his certificate and prize of a Trek cycling helmet at an Awards Ceremony in Central MK.

Watling Academy also won third place in the 'Top Cycling School' Category, proving that the school is committed to its students and staff developing greener daily habits.

Ian Bacon, Head of School at Watling Academy said "I am delighted for Thomas and proud of his achievement. As a school we were very keen to be involved in the Mayor's Competition and the National 'Cycle September' initiative.

"Our core values are 'Respect, Responsibility and Kindness' and under 'Responsibility' all members of our community understand that their actions will have a long-term impact on the environment."

Watling Academy is one of the schools in the Denbigh Alliance Multi Academy Trust. Andy Squires, CEO of the Trust said, "I am delighted with Watling's success in the Mayor's 'Cycle September' Awards as it reflects our commitment as a Trust to encouraging and providing facilities for students to safely choose green methods of transport for their journey to and from our schools each day.

Initiatives like the Mayor's Competition are really helpful if we are to reduce the number of cars on the school run each day which will make for a safer and greener city for us all."

**Well done to Thomas from everyone at
Watling Academy!**

Words from Mr Bacon - Head of School

Welcome to the first Watling Academy Newsletter this academic year. Our Year 7s, who make up nearly two thirds of our students, have completed their first half term in secondary school and should be congratulated on the way that they have settled into life at Watling Academy. Our Year 8s have returned to Watling after the summer holiday and continued where they left off, as excellent role models for the Watling values of Respect, Responsibility and Kindness. I am proud of all of our students and thank you as parents for your continued support.

Whilst the start of term is always busy with settling into new routines and ways of working, I have been flabbergasted and delighted with the number of students who have taken advantage of our wide range of after school clubs and activities. 7 out of every 10 students has attended at least one after school club and nearly half of our students have attended more than one each week. These opportunities are the things that add that extra spice to school life and I would encourage all students to take advantage of the clubs and extra-curricular opportunities we have throughout next half term. You will receive more information from Mr Stormer at the start of next half term and clubs will begin in the second week.

There is a lot to look forward to next half term with further trips, student leadership opportunities, after school fixtures against other schools, a whole school STEM day and of course, our Christmas pantomime, which staff will perform for the students!

In and amongst all that excitement, there are also Progress Tests for Year 8 during the first couple of weeks back and slightly later baseline Assessments for Year 7. Students should not worry about these but try to do their best to demonstrate the skills and knowledge that they have learned so far. I hope that this newsletter gives you some sense of life at Watling this half term and some of the special things achieved by our students - your children. Have a safe and enjoyable half term. Students return on Tuesday 2nd November.



Mr I Bacon
Head of School

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Month (BHM) is here again and our focus at Watling Academy. Along side our core British Values, we have encouraged students to reflect, explore ideas that promote respect and understand one another. We have also considered important historical events as we learnt about Black History whilst taking the opportunity to celebrate the lives of positive black role models and the positive contribution they have made and continue to make. This was undertaken in an age appropriate and considerate way. The aims of BHM are to:

- Promote knowledge of black history, culture and heritage
- Share information on positive black contributions to British society.

At Watling Academy, we made sure to incorporate this within various areas within the school, including:

- Celebrating black culture through a range of tutorial programmes delivered by form tutors
- Remote assemblies delivered to form classes promoting black culture in Britain past and present
- History club after school – with the focus on black history and contributions to society
- Film club every Monday to Thursday every week in October celebrating black contributions to film and TV

Below are some links which you'll be able to engage with your family about Black history Month:

- Books to read with the family - [Link](#)
- 40 Children's books celebrating Black History and Culture - [Link](#)
- Reading Rockets favourite books for BHM - [Link](#)
- Talking race with young children - [Link](#)
- Teaching young children about Bias, Diversity and social justice - [Link](#)
- How to talk about race, justice and equality with your children - [Link](#)
- Nonviolent Communication: Confronting Racism with Compassion - [Link](#)

Mr Parks

ECO NEWS

This half term, Eco Committee have been sharing information about UK regional species loss due to climate change and they launched a logo design competition to Years 7 and 8.

There were many outstanding entries and it was a difficult decision, but congratulations go to Lydia Worrall whose brilliant entry, pictured here, was democratically judged out of 52 entries to be the overall winner and claimed the prize of a massive bar of chocolate (made with sustainably sourced cocoa), 5 house points and a mention in the school newsletter.

Next half term Eco Committee have lots of exciting activities lined up including events around Year 7 recruitment, The Parks Trust, food and weather-watching.

Watch this space!



Ms Piper

PARENT'S GUIDE TO SOCIAL MEDIA



With the busy world we lead today and the ever changing digital life people seem to lead, it can be impossible to keep up with the latest trend children are using online these days.

However, fear not. We have compiled a small list for parents to introduce you to some of the most popular ones. There may be some on here that you are familiar with already, others not so much, they are all worth knowing about. If you take an interest in

the things your child enjoys doing, they are far more likely to open up to you in the event that something goes wrong.

Below is a brief outline on the 6 major social media apps that are in circulation at the moment with a link to find out further info should you wish.

Snapchat: One of the most popular social media apps today, with the ability for people to send “Snaps” that last a few seconds before disappearing. The app has changed immensely since its launch in 2011 and has an age rating of 13 (however, there is no robust age verification).

For further info – [click here](#)

Instagram: This is another image sharing platform, though videos are almost just as important now on the platform. It includes a stories feature, just like Snapchat and again users must be 13 or over to use the platform. Instagram has been accused of contributing to the rise in body image issues among young people.

For further info – [click here](#)

Tiktok: The rising star of social media platforms, with an average 800 million daily users finding their way to the platform. Content can be varied, ranging from make-up tutorials, gaming and sport. Again, same as the above platforms, there is a 13+ age limit to use this platform. They have recently introduced new rules preventing under 16s from sending or receiving private messages and introduced a Family Pairing mode.

For further info – [click here](#)

YouTube: One of the oldest of the social media platforms, YouTube is a video sharing site which allows you to upload and watch content from all over the world. Ranging from clips of your favourite pop star to instructions on how to cook the perfect roast dinner. An age rating of 13+ is needed to be able to open an account, however, you can watch content at any age.

For further info – [click here](#)

Skype: The video chatting software that one had the monopoly, is still used by millions to stay in touch with friends and family. People can use this software on their desktop computers, mobile phones and even their Xbox. Another age rating of 13+, though again, there is no robust age-verification in place.

For further info – [click here](#)

WhatsApp: By far, the most popular messaging app in the world. Can be used for both messaging, phoning and video chatting as long as you have an internet connection. Children and young people use it to share images, organise homework and generally chat with their friends and can communicate with anyone in their contact list who had the app. Originally 13+ to use the app, as of 2018 the minimum age was raised to 16 in Europe.

For further info – [click here](#)

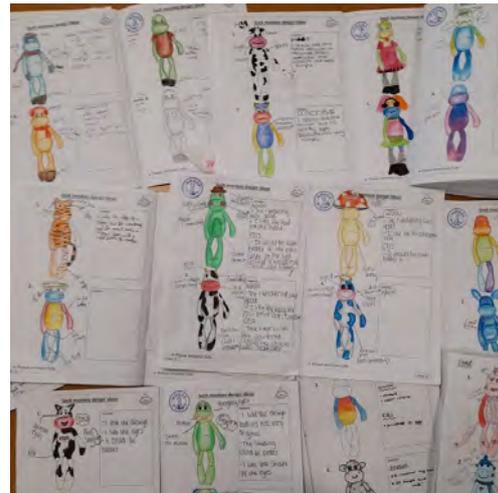
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

This term Year 7 have been working in textiles, designing and producing upcycled sock monkeys. They have learned about the environmental impact of the textiles industry, different fabric constructions, properties and uses. They have been able to thread up and use a sewing machine, and have practised hand embroidery skills. Students are now ready to start producing their sock monkey by upcycling their old socks. We have been very impressed with their hand embroidery skills and also design skills, they have been very creative. Please see below some examples of their fantastic work!



Hand embroidery from:

Leo
Abigail
Rose
Bianca
Regan
Praveen
Rumana
Freya
Ella
Lydia
Ivy
Amilie
Sitara



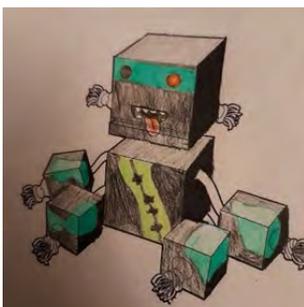
Design and rendering skills

Lucas
Sherin
Grishma
Halima
Naomi
Jotham
Skylar
Sukhpreet,
Eeshan
Cevdet

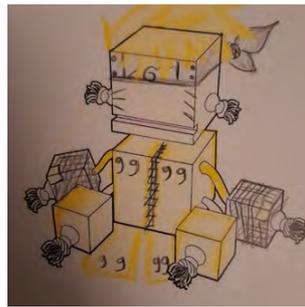
All from 7KAS

Students have learnt about different materials, their properties and uses. They have been able to write specifications, and create design ideas to meet a brief. They have also been able to experience 3D CAD drawing and will be using the laser cutter as part of their block bot design. Students are now starting their practical making work using a variety of hand tools and machinery to make their blockbots.

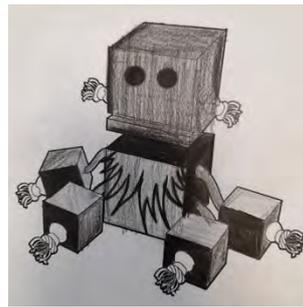
Please see below some designs from the students:



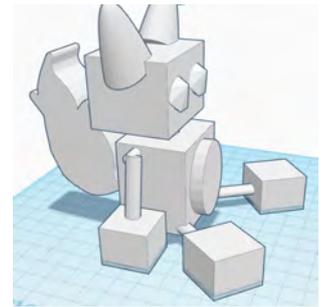
Johnny Jeywright



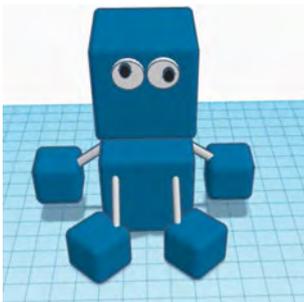
Fares Hassan



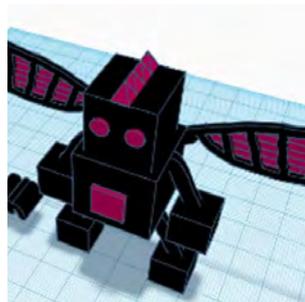
Zayna Fowsel Ameer



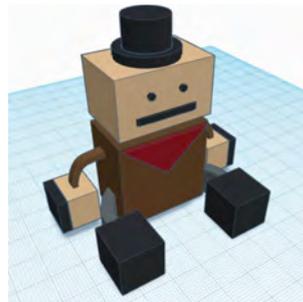
Ruby Taylor



Flynn Harvey



Adomas Zemaitaitis



Freya Whitting

Ms Fuller

WHAT'S BEHIND THE DOOR?

In English, we have been running an extracurricular activity to enter a story writing competition run by Westbury Art's Centre. We've also been encouraging lots of reading and sharing book reviews and reading recommendations. Reading really opens doors to new worlds, characters and future success in exams and work. Fittingly, the theme of the writing competition has been "what's behind the door?" Imagine what doors you can open with brilliant reading and writing! Here are just a few of the highlights from our imaginative writers:



When they entered the museum, they showed unknown artifacts and they saw sculptures and bones of dead animals from the past but when they came across a door, they saw a boy trying to get their attention. The boy was saying "do not go" many times but it was too late. It was cold down their spine, they wondered what was going to happen next.

Michelle Ocran—7MPE

Turning back to the house, everything that filled my eye view was just grey. The walls and even the glass in the window looked like it was a grey. Though, maybe that was just cobwebs. It was clear this house was old, I would even say ancient. One step into that house seems like it would make the whole thing collapse.

Jessica Garside —7MQN

Kitada woke, sunlight gleamed, tearing through the old oak trees surrounding him. As he stood up, a gentle, clean breeze rustled against his maple brown hair making him feel refreshed. Kitada searched through his pockets for his phone, but it wasn't there. Instead, was a map of the forest and a compass. He gloomily sighed, hoping that someone was out there to help him. How did he even get stuck in that forest in the first place? No-one knew. Kitada decided to take a stroll and try to find an exit out of the forest yet all he could see was trees and wildlife for miles.

Lydia Worrall—7AFR

Surrounded by long, twisted, emerald vines of ivy, hanging down from an unstable, wobbly roof caked in centuries worth of moss, stands a door. A gigantic, rotting door. Crawling with termites, infested with lice, and swimming with worms. It seems to have seen better days. But one question remains - what's behind it?

Brenny Pearl—8RST

Everything was pitch-black. Suddenly, a light evolved from the darkness. Slowly as your eyes adjusted to the light, you could see a door appearing from the luminous light. There is a gravitational pull that makes you feel drawn towards the door. As you draw closer, you see vines and unique flowers surrounding it. As you grow closer, the force grows stronger. Suddenly, you feel something pull on the ankle of your foot. An over-grown vine is pulling you backwards, trying to warn you.

Laura Norris-Copson—7RWT

ADA LOVELACE



On Friday, 8th October, students across the Academy celebrated Ada Lovelace Day, a holiday honouring the famous mathematician and early computer programmer. In each of their classes that day, they started their lessons by decrypting a word related to Ada Lovelace.

In their last lesson, they unscrambled letters from each of the secret words throughout the day, finally discovering that it was Ada Lovelace Day.

The atmosphere at Watling Academy was electric as students uncovered the six clues. Students said that they loved the activities, and they were eager to learn all of the decryption methods. Students used Caesar ciphers, morse code, maths puzzles, rail fence ciphers, route ciphers, and anagrams.

Try the new Caesar cipher puzzle located below and see if you can figure out the secret message! If you're struggling, ask your child for assistance.

Zdwolqj Dfdghpb

Caesar cipher shift of 3

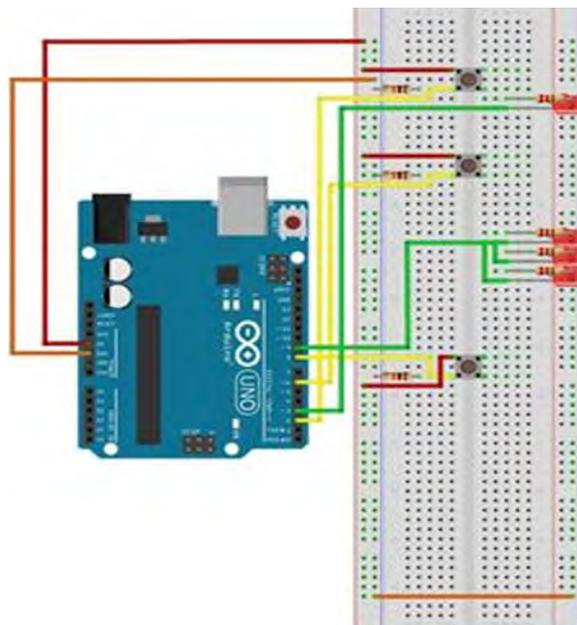
(To decrypt, D would become A, E would become B, etc)

Miss Norwood

On Tuesday 12th October, Students in 8X1 and 8Y1 Computing took part in the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Ada Lovelace Virtual Challenge Day. The day consisted of using a virtual Arduino board, which is a small computer which can be programmed and a breadboard, to complete one of the challenges that was set.

The theme of the day was that their rocket had crash landed on Mars and they needed to get their Communication, Life Support and Landing systems back up and running. In the afternoon students were given a virtual tour of the scientific computing faculties at RAL as well as having a careers talk. Here is an example of one of the students work for the Communication Challenge. They came up with the idea of using Morse Code to communicate the word "SOS" so that when they pressed the left button it would make the LED flash for S (dot) and the right button would make the LED flash for O (dash).

Students had a fantastic day trying to work out how to complete the challenges set using the Arduino board. It also gave them the chance to do some hands-on programming which we haven't had much exposure to physical computing yet within the computing curriculum.



Mr Bartlam

WATLING ACADEMY TRIP



A robot gave us chocolate!”

Not quite normal? Maybe not, but maybe a sign of the future!

Last Friday saw a group of twenty-five Watling Academy students heading out to the MKInnovates exhibition in Central Milton Keynes. The purpose of the morning was to inspire students to look at careers and further education opportunities in the world of STEM. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics are such an important part of our lives and for someone as old as me, I am amazed by the technology we have available today – way beyond the stuff of science fiction of the days. Hopefully our students will start to consider how they might have careers in jobs unimaginable in past decades.

The students were able to engage in inspiring high-tech activities such as robotics, virtual reality, engineering tasks, and coding and programming. Also collect free pens or using pneumatics to win prizes. Our students were able to engage confidently with exhibitors included Nifty-Lift, Network Rail, Buckingham University, Cranfield University, Lynx Communications.

The Watling Academy students on the trip were a credit to themselves and showed Respect in public and acquitted themselves in a Responsible way when taking part in the activities.

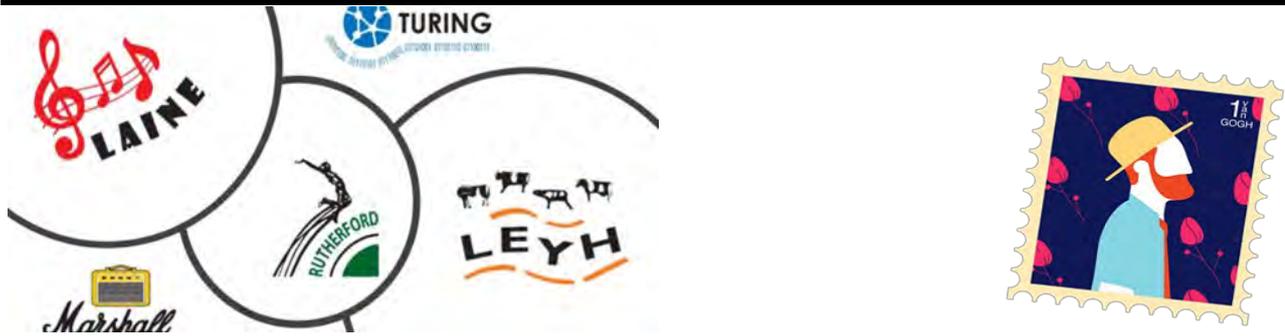
On return to the academy, it was great to hear students discussing their morning with their peers. Although we couldn't take more students on this trip, we are planning more visits to events as well as guests coming in, across both of our year groups, between now and the end of the summer term. Our aim is to ensure that all Watling Academy students have fair access and therefore students not able to go this time will be involved in future events. In November we have a Women in Engineering event booked at Nifty-Lift and we have a STEM Day both in November.

As to the chocolate: the students actually had to decypher a code and then use a keyboard input to earn the chocolate. Clearly the students enjoyed the challenge.



Mr Houghton

POSTCARD COMPETITION WINNERS



Thank you to all those students who entered the Watling Academy Postcard Competition

Seven winners have been chosen as below:

Well done to you all, the postcard designs will be revealed soon!

WINNERS!

JENISHA
CHANDRAVATHANAN

ABIGAIL
BRANDOM

LILY
RUFF

ALIZAH
RASHID

NYAH
SMITH

DAVID
TARFA

BLESSING
DARKO

Mrs Hardie

OPEN EVENING 2021

On Thursday 14th October 2021 we hosted our first annual Open Evening for prospective parents and students joining in September 2022. This was an exciting opportunity to share the Watling Way with future Watling Academy students. Since moving into our state-of-the-art school building this was our first opportunity to exhibit and promote our amazing school to Potential future students. We are extremely excited to share our fantastic facilities, but the highlight of the evening was the opportunity to showcase our students, both as learners and leaders.

Unfortunately, due to public health guidance we had to limit the number of visitors we had on-site and this was achieved through a ticketing system. A number of those families that missed the opportunity to attend the sold out Open Evening had the chance to attend an additional open event on Monday the 18th October. While we are disappointed that we had to adapt the evening, we are delighted that so many families still had the opportunity to attend an open event in person.

Finally, I would like to congratulate and thank all the student helpers from the open evening. All 184 student volunteers did an amazing job and the feedback from both staff and visitors was glowing. Year 7 students and some Year 8 students based in curriculum areas did an incredible job at promoting our school on Open Evening, this was achieved through discussions with visitors, as well as taking part in and leading learning opportunities. We also had many Year 8 students who performed the role of tour guides. These students took on this role with maturity and confidence, ensuring our visitors left with a strong understanding of what Watling Academy has to offer. Our tour guides did so well that 38 returned on Monday for our additional Open event.

Some of our helpers are pictured on the right helping out with the giant loom in DT.



Mr Stormer

LOST PROPERTY



We have a large quantity of lost items including water bottles, pencil cases, shoes and coats.

Can all students please check the "Lost Property" cupboard located next to the First Aid Room if they have lost anything.

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.

Either email attendance@watling.academy or call 01908 794094 choosing the attendance option and leave a message including your child's name and details of reason for absence.

Thank you!

Mrs Gaughan

October 2021

Issue 6

www.watling.academy

Dates for your Diary:**End of Half Term**

Friday 22nd October
(School closes at 3:15pm)

INSET DAY

Monday 1st November

Start of new Half Term

Tuesday 2nd November

Parent Drop-in

Thursday 25th November
7:45am–8:45am

Year 7 Learning Pathways

Wednesday 1st December
5pm–8pm

Year 8 Learning Pathways

Wednesday 8th December
5pm–8pm

Awards Evening

Wednesday 15th December
5pm–8pm

Christmas Lunch

Thursday 16th December

Non Uniform Day

Friday 17th December

Last Day of Term

Friday 17th December
(School closes at 3:15pm)

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>



Spanish Competitions

There are two exciting competitions taking place during Spanish lessons of week commencing Monday 6th December

Year 7 – Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022

This competition was really successful last year. Two of our students, now in year 8, Jenisha Chandravathanan and Jenefer Repuri progressed to the National Final of this competition. Jenisha was also Regional Champion for the entire Southeast of England. We hope their success inspires our current Year 7 students in this competition.

Students will have one minute to correctly translate into Spanish and spell in Spanish as many words from their list as possible from memory.

There will be two winners for each house, who will go on to compete in a school competition. The three winners of the school competition may also go on to a regional/national competition.

Year 8 – Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022

As mentioned in the above section, our students enjoyed a lot of success in the Spelling Bee competition in Year 7. We are looking forward to seeing the students build on this success in the Foreign Language Translation Bee in Year 8.

Students will have 1 minute to correctly translate as many short sentences into Spanish from their list as possible. At stage 1 students will be using the present tense 'I' and 'we' forms of the verb. We will be practising a section each week until the class competition.

The competition will take place in your Spanish lesson week beginning 6th December. There will be two winners from each house who will move onto the school competition. This competition will really help students with their knowledge of forming important sentences using key verbs and vocabulary. This will ultimately help them in their assessments.



Mr Scott

WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE!

As you may be aware, The Denbigh Alliance Trust is working on an exciting project to open a new Primary School. This school is due to open in September 2023. If there are any parents/carers with marketing skills or experience in brand design who would enjoy being involved in this project, we would like to hear from you. Please email our CEO, Andy Squires at CEO@thedenbighalliance.org.uk if you feel you could offer some expertise in either or both of these areas.

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