



May 2022

NEWSLETTER - Issue 10

www.watling.academy



HAPPY JUBILEE!



Words from Mr Bacon Head of School

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Her Majesty the Queen celebrates her 70th anniversary as our monarch, here at Watling Academy we have been reflecting on our 1st anniversary of being in the school on the Barrosa Way site. How quickly time flies and how things have changed during our time here with the Whitehouse community and the school developing at a very fast rate.

This half term has been no exception, with another successful and busy few weeks. Trips, charity events, challenges and competitions have all taken place, together with extra-curricular clubs, sports fixtures and tree planting, all involving a great many of our students.

I am absolutely delighted to report that we have successfully got through to the National Finals of the Spanish Translation Bee which will be held at the University of Cambridge; won a creative writing competition at the Westbury Arts Centre in Aylesbury, with three students also receiving high commendation certificates; silver and bronze awards being achieved in the UKMT Maths Challenge and after being nominated by our local community into a competition run by Frosts Garden Centre, we are now the proud owners of a Hornbeam Tree which was planted by some of our Eco-Committee students in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Our extra-curricular clubs are going from strength to strength, with sports fixtures being held and competitions also being entered into through others such as the Lego Club who entered the First Lego League virtual competition, winning 2 awards.

Some of our Year 7 and 8 students also attended a training course on Anti-Bullying run by the Anti-Bullying Programme and the Diana Award. They have now become Watling's Ambassadors, a great achievement.

Many congratulations to all involved. We are very proud of all of them. On 26th May, over 450 students went out on our first ever 'Trips Day' - Year 7 to Whipsnade Zoo and Year 8 to Thorpe Park. These trips were a great success, students were impeccably behaved and really enjoyed the day. It was a credit to Watling seeing both staff and students demonstrate our core values on our first ever full year group trip days. Therefore as it was 'National Thank a Teacher Day' yesterday, it is appropriate to send my thanks and appreciation to all the Associate Staff and Teachers involved for a job very well done in the planning and organising of these.

As we start to plan for the new intake of Year 7's in September, we have many things to look forward to in the final few weeks of this academic year, so I wish you a relaxing and safe half term break, enjoy the extra bank holiday and Jubilee celebrations and we look forward to welcoming all students back on Monday 6th June.

Mr Ian Bacon
Head of School

CHARITY NEWS



We had a Non-Uniform day for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal on Friday 1st April for the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal.

Thank you to all those who donated.

More information can be found and donations can still be made via the link below:

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Ms Cox

STUDENT COUNCIL



At the end of last term, the student council prepared an Easter Egg trail for students to enjoy. They cut out pictures of Easter Eggs to stick around the school and students had to collect an entry slip from reception to take part.

Once they had found the Easter Eggs, they had to unscramble the letters to find the secret code.

All winning submissions were entered into a prize draw and four students were rewarded with a chocolate egg.

Well done to everyone who took part, we hope you had fun!



Ms Cox

UKMT MATHS CHALLENGE

During this half term, all of our students took part in the UKMT maths challenge. The maths challenge involves several different very challenging problems that students attempt to answer in exam conditions. This challenge is completed across the UK in many different schools.

We are really pleased and proud to announce that our students did very well in the challenge, with 68 students being awarded a Bronze Award and 22 students achieving a Silver Award. This success resulted in 20% of our students being awarded and recognised for their achievements in the maths challenge.



United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust

Special recognition must go to our three students who managed to achieve a Gold Award. Those students were Ayaan Asif, Mikey Winterflood and Shreeya Machireddy.

Shreeya scored the highest mark in the school and will now progress to the next round of the challenge. We wish her luck as she completes this next half term.

Mrs Wall

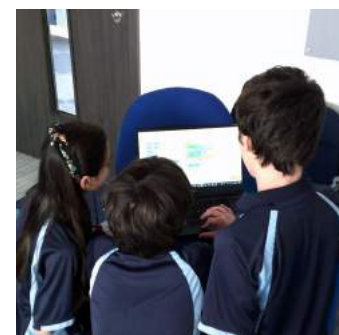
LEGO CLUB



Throughout the year, Lego club have been preparing for the First Lego League competition. On the 5th May, seven of our students across year 7 and 8 took part in the virtual competition. We competed against 18 other schools from across the country. The students had to complete several tasks including a robot game, presenting an innovation project and being interviewed about their robot. The robot game involved students programming their robot to complete several different tasks on a grid within 2 and half minutes. Their innovation project considered the use of Starship robots to transport medicines and the team did very well in answering all their interview questions.

The students were excellent and had a very enjoyable day. We were even successful in winning 2 awards. We were awarded the best robot design award and the best coach award. Both reflecting the fantastic efforts the team and the teachers involved have put in this year.

We are really excited for next year's Lego competition and look forward to being able to compete against other schools in person.



Mrs Wall

DT COOKERY



Fresh Food for the Summer Term

We have a new cohort of Food students this term, with all students moving to a new subject area within DT. Year 7s have been learning about food hygiene and safety, the Eatwell Guide and the importance of a balanced diet, starting with some super fresh Fruit Fusions. Year 8s are exploring the functions of ingredients, starting with some Scrummy Scones.

After half term, all current Food students will continue to create their delicious dishes.

Please check ParentMail/ Teams for ingredient sheets.

Ms Piper

OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRIP

On 12th May a group of year 8 students visited Oxford, as part of the University's Outreach programme. The sessions that were run by Trinity College, allowed students to gain an insight into life at university and potential post-16 options.

We were given a tour of Trinity and treated to a lovely lunch, which was enjoyed by all! In the afternoon, students participated in a workshop at the Pitt Rivers museum, focusing on decolonisation and inferring meaning from artefacts.

It was a fabulous day - broadening understanding of further education and raising student aspirations.



TRINITY COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY of OXFORD

Miss Wright

SPELLING BEE – REGIONAL FINAL



Foreign Language Spelling Bee 2022

During this term, the winners of Stage 2 of the Spanish Spelling Bee have been practising translating and spelling up to 200 words in Spanish as part of their preparation for Stage 3 where they competed against students across the entire southeast region for a place in the National Final.

More than 3,000 students competed across the southeast with 42 taking part in the Regional Final. Students had to correctly translate and spell as many of the 200 words as possible in a minute. The students with the highest scores in the whole region were then selected to take part in the National Competition.

I am so pleased to announce that two out of three of the Watling Academy competitors were selected to advance to the National Finals at the University of Cambridge.

The winners of Stage 3 were Zaina Shaik, who placed 3rd in the region, and Liana Hayfron who placed 1st in the region.

This is the second successive year where we've had two students advance to the National Final.

Well done to both students – this is a huge accomplishment!

Also, well done to Freya Kyd who also competed in the Regional Final and did really well.

Mr Scott & Mrs Honious

TRANSLATION BEE – REGIONAL FINAL

The following students took part in Stage 3, of the Regional Final of the Spanish Translation Bee competition on Tuesday 3rd May.

Eleanora Awetam – Marshall

Gabriel Madureira – Laine

Students had to correctly translate into Spanish as many of the present tense and immediate future tense and preterite tense sentences as possible in a minute.

The regional final results were announced as part of a talk to students on the benefits of learning another language. We are delighted to announce that Gabriel has made it through to the National Final, which will take place at the University of Cambridge.

Please wish him luck if you see him.



Mr Scott & Mrs Honious

WORLD BEE DAY

World Bee day (20th May 2022) highlighted the importance of bees to the environment and humankind.

To celebrate this day we ran a fun competition where we had to find the Queen Bee picture that was hidden in the school, several students and staff won prizes.



Mrs Hardie

ECO-COMMITTEE UPDATE

RECYCLING

The Eco-Committee was visited by Sarah Spicer, a member of MK Council. Sarah spoke to the students about the importance of recycling as well as how to do it properly. She helped the Eco-Committee realise that, whilst there are things we are doing well, we can still make improvements. One of the biggest issues are the bins – it seems that some students at Watling either don't know which bin is for recycling or do not know which items can and cannot be recycled. The Eco-Committee have decided that one of their next projects will be to revamp the school bins making it easier to distinguish between them. They will also work on educating Watling students on how to recycle properly and help us become a more sustainable and eco-friendly school.



Here are some Recycling Rules of Thumb from MK Council:

- **Update your recycling knowledge** – Just because it looks recyclable doesn't mean it can be recycled in MK
- **If in doubt, leave it out** – If you're unsure if something can be recycled, leave it out of the recycling bin
- **No food or drink at all should ever go in the recycling** – Rinse out containers as food, dry or wet, can ruin paper for recycling
- **Make sure items are empty, clean and dry** – Wet and dirty items can spoil recycling while it's being processed
- **Nothing else goes in your recycling** – If you're struggling with too much waste or aren't sure how to recycle, get in touch with MK Council for help <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling>

Mrs Honious

TREE COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to the following four students who have been appointed as champions to each lead a small team of students to work on specific projects and support the running of the Eco-Committee:

- Biodiversity – Annabel Morrissey
- Litter – Nyah Smith
- Waste – Brenny Pearl
- Reporting – Jenisha Chandravathanan

Watling Academy was lucky enough to be nominated by our local community in a competition run by Frosts Garden Centre and we won a Hornbeam tree! This week, Annabel, Nyah, Brenny and Jenisha all took part in the planting of the tree for the Jubilee. The wider Eco-Committee will help to care for the tree.



Ms Piper

ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS



T H E D I A N A A W A R D

On Thursday, 18th of April, ten students across years 7 and 8 visited The Hazeley Academy. Anti-Bullying Pro and The Diana Award come together every year to provide training to young people across the country on how to combat bullying within their schools. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors can be recognised easily around the academy by the badge that they wear proudly on their blazers.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors then ran assemblies for both year groups explaining their vital role within the school and what bullying behaviour looks like.

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors meet weekly to plan events and create resources to spread inclusivity and positivity.

Over the coming months, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be striving to achieve the Respect badge (awarded by The Diana Award).



Miss Bell

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION

Several students from year 7 attended an awards ceremony for their creative writing at the Westbury Arts Centre. The piece was themed around the question 'what's behind the door?' inspired by the beautiful wooden carved 'Armada door' at the centre which local folklore says was from the remains of the Spanish Armada. More information can be found on the Westbury Arts Centre website.

<https://www.westburyartscentre.org.uk/>

The students enjoyed a reading of their work and were presented with a certificate and a medal or trophy. The work has been published by the Westbury Arts Centre with fantastic illustrations inspired by each of the stories provided by students from MK College.

Congratulations to the following students for their amazing creative writing:

Highly Commended: Mia Jackson, Year 7, Two Long Decades
Marley Riley, Year, The Mirror
Lydia Worrall, Year 7, Kitada

Overall winner: Jessica Garside Year 7, Phia's Door
(Pictured right with Mr Quin)

Well done to everyone!



Mr Quin

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

REMINDER FOR NEXT TERMS TIMETABLE

- w/b Monday 6th June Week A
- w/b Monday 13th June Week B
- w/b Monday 20th June Week A
- w/b Monday 27th June Week B
- w/b Monday 4th July Week A
- w/b Monday 11th July Week B
- w/b Monday 18th July Week A

WATCH

THIS

SPACE

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.



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.

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS OVER HALF TERM

The school office will be closed during the Half Term holiday from 5:00pm on Friday 27th May until 8:00am on Monday 6th June. If there is anything urgent then please email admin@watling.academy and we will aim to respond as soon as possible.

WATLING NOTICE BOARD

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Dates for your Diary:

End of Half Term

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

School re-opens

Monday 6th June

Parent Drop-in – 7:45am

Thursday 16th May

STEM Day

Wednesday 8th June

Teen Tech Virtual Event

Wednesday 8th June

Science Fair

Wednesday 15th June

Year 8 Worktree Event

Monday 20th June

Army Days Event

Wednesday 22nd June

Drama Showcase

Wednesday 29th June

Year 6/7 Transition Days

Monday 4th and
Tuesday 5th July

Year 6/7 Transition Evenings

Monday 4th and
Tuesday 5th July

Year 7/8 Tutor Evenings

Wednesday 6th July and
Wednesday 13th July

Culture Day

Tuesday 12th July

Sports Day

Thursday 14th July

Awards Evening

TBC

Non-Uniform Day

Friday 22nd July

End of Summer Term

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

LOST PROPERTY



We still have a large amount of Lost Property.

None of the items are named so we cannot reunite them with their owner. If your child has lost anything, please ask them to go and check the Lost Property cupboard and clothes rail.

Please see the photo on the left with a small selection of “lost” drinks bottle and containers.

Thank you!

Mrs Gaughan



*From all the Staff
at
Watling Academy*



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**RESPECT, RESPONSIBILTY
and KINDNESS**