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Newsletter

WORDS FROM MR BACON, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents & Carers

A warm welcome to the last Newsletter of this academic year, both to our current parents and carers and to those who will be joining the Watling Academy family from September.

Another exciting and busy half term has passed - how quickly the time has flown by throughout the year. So many wonderful events to celebrate over the past few weeks, including the Awards Evening, the House Festival, many sports fixtures including tennis tournaments and athletic championships and the trips that have taken place to Whipsnade and Thorpe Park, the Big Bang fair in Birmingham, the MK Gallery and Silverstone.

We have had two more 'firsts' for Watling Academy - our whole school production 'Game of Tiaras' which took place on two evenings at the end of June. This provided a fantastic opportunity for our students to showcase their creativity and skills, not only on stage but behind the scenes as well. The students did so well - many congratulations to all involved. The second was held on 12th July when the whole school took a break from the academic routine and enjoyed the many events organised for Sports Day by the PE team. Despite a couple of heavy showers, spirits were not dampened, and great competitiveness and fun was had by all.

Weaving amongst this calendar of events, we played host to our soon to be Year 7 students, who have been to visit Watling from their respective primary schools, to introduce them to what Watling life entails. We also held our Transition Evening for parents and carers in order to get a taste themselves of what life at Watling is like. Thank you to all who attended - we hope you found it enjoyable and informative.

Behind the scenes, a lot of preparation has already been made for the year ahead, with another first looming - we will have Year 10 students and GCSE courses! New teaching and associate staff will also be joining us, with new timetables, new school timings and lots more to look forward to and celebrate.

I'd like to thank the following teaching colleagues leaving us today - Mr Malloy, Mr Adams, Miss Hartwell and Mrs Lekhi and wish them all the best in their new schools.

I am always immensely proud of everyone here at Watling and as you will see whilst reading the following pages, we have achieved such a lot in such a short space of time. As we wind down on another academic year, I would just like to thank all the students and staff who have participated in all these events in whatever capacity and to you for supporting us in all we do.

May you have a relaxing, enjoyable and safe summer holiday and I look forward to seeing everyone in September when we can start on the next exciting phase of our journey.

Ian Bacon, Headteacher

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- End of term— Thu 20th Jul @ 3:15pm
- School reopens Y7 only —Wed 6th Sep
- School reopens Y8 to Y10 —Thu 7th Sep
- School photos—Fri 8th Sep





A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

Dear Parents and Carers

Last time I wrote in this newsletter, I asked for volunteers to join the Local School Board (LSB). I am grateful to our three new governors who started this term. The LSB is a group of volunteers who are responsible for overseeing the running of the school. They work with the Denbigh Multi-Academy trust, the headteacher and the school's senior leadership team to ensure that the school provides high-quality care, education and opportunity for all students. We also have a responsibility to represent the views of parents and the community.

The LSB plays an important role and I want to thank all LSB members for their hard work and dedication. We will be publishing information about the composition and responsibilities of the LSB on the website next term, explaining what we do and how to contact us.

I would like to wish all the staff and students a fantastic summer! Congratulations to everyone: not only for Watling's outstanding OfSTED result, but more importantly for a great academic year all round. Next year, we will welcome a new group of Year 7 students and begin our first GCSE year as a school. This will bring excitement and new challenges, but I am optimistic that the Watling community will rise to the occasion.

I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and fun summer.

Rob Simpson
Chair of Governors





STUDENT COUNCIL

At our recent Prize-Giving Ceremony we had the opportunity to reflect on our purpose and share our progress made in improving communication between the student body and school management.

We also mentioned the honour felt by us in serving our school community, the importance of actively listening to others and taking the responsibility we have been given seriously. We reiterated our commitment to support existing initiatives at our school and our pledge to effect change so that the Watling experience is a positive one for all students and staff.

We've worked through the ideas shared by students in our Suggestion Box this term and forwarded them to the correct staff member on our Senior Leadership Team. In addition, we have responded to each person to let them know that their suggestion has been passed on.

Our logo design competition has been extended into the new school year. Tap into your creative talents over the Summer holiday and see what you can design.

Mrs Dixon



"GAME OF TIARAS"

TAKES WATLING ACADEMY BY STORM

Watling Academy is still buzzing with excitement as students from years 7, 8, and 9 have put on a spectacular performance of "Game of Tiaras." This thrilling production, inspired by the iconic "Game of Thrones" series, combined drama, humour, and plenty of tiaras to create a show that left the audience spellbound. Let's delve into the magical world of "Game of Tiaras" and relive the captivating moments.

Under the guidance of our talented Drama teachers and Directors, the students at Watling Academy have displayed their incredible talent and dedication, bringing to life the gripping story of power, ambition, and rivalry. Set in a medieval kingdom, "Game of Tiaras" showcased the fierce battle for the throne among various princesses, each with their own unique strengths and weaknesses.

The production was a testament to the hard work and collaboration of the entire cast and crew. From the breathtaking set designs to the awe-inspiring costumes, every aspect of the show was meticulously crafted. Students from the Orchestra and Band Development clubs performed on-stage, playing original compositions and arrangements by Mr Moosajee. The young actors embraced their roles with conviction and delivered outstanding performances, capturing the essence of their characters flawlessly.

Continued on page 5



Aleya, Sofia, Emily, Jak, Felicity and Ella

"GAME OF TIARAS"

TAKES WATLING ACADEMY BY STORM

The script, a clever adaptation of the original concept, incorporated elements of comedy and modern references, keeping the audience entertained and engaged throughout. The witty dialogue and unexpected plot twists had everyone on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating what would happen next.

One of the highlights of the show was undoubtedly the incredible choreography and fight sequences Punctuated by our very own "Blood Packet Guy"). The students demonstrated exceptional agility and coordination as they executed intricate sword fights and captivating dance routines. The energy and enthusiasm on stage were infectious, leaving the audience in awe of their talents.

Behind the scenes, the crew worked tirelessly to ensure smooth transitions, flawless lighting, and impeccable sound effects. The dedication and commitment of these unsung heroes were crucial in creating a seamless and immersive experience for the audience.

Continued on page 6



Marley, Olivia, Aiden, Lucas, Max, Fletcher, Amir, Josh, Neel, Ben, Zachary, Pritika, Cyrus, Gabriel, Lily, Talasya and Raghav

Willow, Ella, Aleya, Shreya, Felicity and Sofia



"GAME OF TIARAS"

TAKES WATLING ACADEMY BY STORM

The production of "Game of Tiaras" not only showcased the artistic abilities of the students but also taught them important lessons about respect, responsibility, and kindness. Through countless rehearsals and overcoming challenges, they discovered the joy of collaborating towards a common goal and witnessed the magic that can be achieved when talents are combined.

The resounding success of "Game of Tiaras" at Watling Academy is a testament to the exceptional talent and passion that thrives within our student body. We applaud the performers, the crew, the directors, and all those involved in making this production a triumph. Headteacher Ian Bacon commented that the production has created "Watling History" and it is completely true that the cast and crew's dedication and hard work have left an indelible mark on our school community, inspiring future generations of performers.

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Samuel, Paige and Charlotte

"GAME OF TIARAS"

TAKES WATLING ACADEMY BY STORM

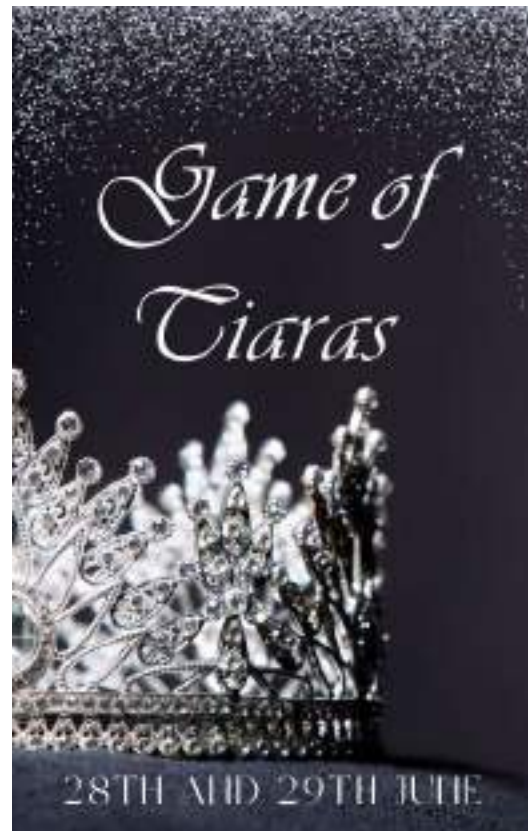
As the final curtain falls on "Game of Tiaras," we extend our heartfelt congratulations to everyone involved. This unforgettable experience will be cherished by both the performers and the audience for years to come. We eagerly await the next production from Watling Academy, eager to witness the incredible talents of our students once again.

Long live the legacy of "Game of Tiaras," and long live the spirit of creativity and passion that flourishes at Watling Academy.

Mrs Brooks, Mr Frost and Mr Moosajee



Evelyn, Lydia, Jotham, Mikey, Shreya and Emily



BIOLOGY CHALLENGE

In May, 60 Year 9 students entered the UK Biology Challenge. This is a competition for year 9 and 10 students, and exams are sat across the country. Watling did very well, with 4 students (**Mikey, Malika, Shreeya** and **Jenefa**) achieving Bronze, which puts them in the top 30% in the country.

One student, **Princess**, achieved within the top 15% of students in the country and was awarded Silver.

Mrs Gallagher



BIG BANG FAIR

In June, 11 students from year 7 were selected to attend the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. Students were chosen based on their efforts in the Watling Science Fair so that they could experience a large scale science fair. Students had the opportunity to speak to employers such as TUI, Bosch Engineering and National Highways. They also got to speak to people from the University of Warwick, University of Wolverhampton and Amazon, amongst others. The students had a great time and represented the school fantastically.

Mrs Gallagher

Jay



SUMMER READING

Whatever your plans for the summer holidays, make sure you have plenty of good books to hand!

To help you decide what to read, we have put together a selection of our students' favourite books from this year.

Separate lists for Year 7 & 8 and Year 9 have been compiled based on interest levels. Students may enjoy books from both lists but please be aware that some books on the Year 9 list contain more mature content.

Students in all year groups can earn House Points in September for any reading you do over the summer! All you need to do is take a note of the books you read, and you will be given details about how to claim your points when you return to school.

Please refer to the ParentMail sent on 19th July for the Summer Reads recommendations .

You can borrow many of these books from any of the ten Milton Keynes Libraries. If you don't already have an account, use the below link to find details about how to join:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries/library-info/join-library>

Miss Williams



MILTON KEYNES LIBRARY VISIT

The Librarian from Central Milton Keynes Library visited 7M students during assembly on July 4th to introduce the summer Reading Challenge that has launched in all Milton Keynes public libraries. All students in Year 7 have received reading bookmarks and will earn House Points in September for completed challenges.

Mrs Betteridge

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEE REGIONAL FINAL

Regional Final

The following students took part in Stage 3, the Regional Final for the South of England of the Routes into Languages Foreign Language Translation Bee competition on Monday 12th June at the University of Bath:

Shreeya – Turing

Gabriel – Marshall

Students had to correctly translate into Spanish as many of the present tense, immediate future tense and preterite tense sentences as possible in a minute. Reaching this stage is a great achievement as they were part of the last 36 out of the 3,720 students who started the competition in the South. **Shreeya** did brilliantly making into to the top 10 for Spanish on the day. **Gabriel** made it into the top 5, which meant that he also qualified for the National Final at the University of Cambridge – the second year in a row that he has done this!

Foreign Language Translation Bee: www.fltb.co.uk

Mr Scott



Gabriel and Shreeya



FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEE NATIONAL FINAL

National Final

On Monday 3rd July, **Gabriel** competed in the National Final for the Foreign Language Translation Bee at the University of Cambridge. **Gabriel** had to correctly translate as many sentences into Spanish from a variety of different tenses within a minute. Whilst he did not win the final, he was part of the final group of 57 students out of 13,730 who originally started the competition. This is a superb achievement.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of year 8 and 9. The high standard across the year groups is a key factor in pushing students to reach the school, regional and national finals. As the competition is open to Year 8 and 9, current year 8 students will have the chance to have another go next year. This will really help you learn key sentences in multiple tenses and be successful in Spanish. Good luck for next year!

Mr Scott



Gabriel



MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

DUMPLING MAKING WORKSHOP

Students of the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) had a wonderful experience exploring the topic of 'Food' through making Chinese dumplings on 30th June. The day was filled with delightful moments and valuable learning opportunities.

The students began by learning how to use chopsticks. With enthusiasm and determination, they quickly acquired the techniques and used the chopsticks to mix the filling ingredients skilfully. They gained an understanding of the proper dining etiquette associated with using chopsticks. They discovered interesting facts, such as the importance of not sticking chopsticks into the food or leaving them across the bowl or table.

The exploration continued with the students learning 16 different ways to wrap dumplings, resulting in a variety of beautifully crafted shapes. The students were captivated by the realization that dumplings could be made with such finesse. They also showcased impressive skills in shaping the dumplings, ensuring that each one was carefully wrapped for cooking.

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Andrei, Felicity, Kelden, Akorfa and Catherine,

MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

DUMPLING MAKING WORKSHOP

Miss Zhao cooked the dumplings, which the students then tried. This gave them an opportunity to reflect on the process. Following the cooking session, a competition was held, challenging each group to present how they made their dumplings and convince the audience that their group had created the best dumplings. This competition simulated a real-world business project, encouraging students to learn from their experiences, think critically, and consider ways to improve and promote their work.

The presentation session was inspiring, as the students passionately introduced their projects. Some of them even incorporated creative business ideas to persuade the audience to purchase their product. They also gracefully addressed questions and challenges from the audience, which helped refine their projects.

The day concluded with a strong sense of achievement and joy among the students. They had not only learned about Chinese cuisine and culture but also gained valuable skills in teamwork, creativity, presentation, and problem-solving. The experience of making Chinese dumplings left them with lasting memories and a deeper appreciation for Mandarin learning experiences.

Miss Zhao



YEAR 8 TRIP TO MK GALLERY

Recently, our Year 8 students embarked on an exciting trip to Milton Keynes Gallery to experience the captivating Boyd & Evans exhibition. This trip provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to engage with art, explore the gallery's architecture, and showcase their exemplary behaviour.

One of the highlights of the trip was the collage workshops led by local artist Deborah Fielding. The students embraced their creative sides, experimenting with various materials and techniques to create stunning collages. Deborah's guidance and expertise inspired our students to push their artistic boundaries and create unique works of art.

In addition to the workshops, the students enjoyed a guided tour of the gallery's interior and exterior led by the gallery's public programmes producer Roisin Callaghan. They learned how the gallery's architecture and design were inspired by the vibrant city of Milton Keynes, appreciating how every aspect of the building paid homage to the city's character.



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YEAR 8 TRIP TO MK GALLERY

Throughout the trip, our students conducted themselves with respect, responsibility, and kindness. They showed genuine appreciation for the art and engaged in thoughtful discussions. Their exemplary behaviour truly reflected the values of Watling Academy and earned them praise from the gallery staff.

We would like to express our gratitude to Milton Keynes Gallery, Roisin Callaghan, and Deborah Fielding for their warm welcome and for sharing their passion for art with our students. This trip has left a lasting impression on all who attended, inspiring our students' creativity, and fostering a love for the arts.

We would also like to acknowledge the teachers and staff who organized and accompanied the students throughout the day. Their dedication and support made this trip possible and provided our students with an enriching experience.

The Year 8 trip to Milton Keynes Gallery was a resounding success. It has not only expanded our students' artistic horizons but also taught them about the importance of engaging with their local art community. We are incredibly proud of our students and look forward to more artistic adventures in the future.

Ms Palmer



Celebration Assembly

CELEBRATORY ASSEMBLY EVENING

On Thursday 6th July, Watling Academy hosted its annual celebration evening to recognise the achievements, successes and hard work of our wonderful students. Over one hundred awards were given out covering tutor awards, subject awards, sporting achievements, the anti-bullying ambassador award and highest house points received in each year group. Students were delighted with their certificates, and it was brilliant to invite parents and families to witness the students receive their well-earned awards. Well done to all those who were invited and received an award and we look forward to next year's event!

Mr Humphris



Aidan, Akshath, Faith, and Kadie



Above: Isabel, Nyah, Jak, Jaidon, Charlie, Ollie and Amelie



Cyrus, Wojciech and Ellis

WATLING CAREERS WEEK 2023

In June, we held Watling Academy Careers Week. It was a busy week, filled with a variety of events, opportunities, information and activities to encourage students to consider and explore potential careers and pathways. We would like to encourage you to continue the conversation with students about their future career pathways and opportunities at home.

Each year group had a unique opportunity to engage in a face-to-face event with an employer. These engagement opportunities allowed students to gain an understanding of possible careers and the steps required to follow these pathways.

- Year 7: All students attended an assembly with **Hays Recruitment**. This assembly gave students an understanding of the local labour market and exposed them to a range of careers.
- Year 8: All students have had the opportunity to visit **MK Gallery** an experience Art beyond the classroom and explore possible career pathways.
- Year 9: **Anglian Water** led sessions and workshops with students to discuss career pathways, including apprenticeships and training.

As part of careers week, lessons touched on how students are developing their employability skills through their learning and Tutorials and assemblies have focused on career pathways. We had a careers House competition where students engaged with a careers hunt and explored possible careers that are linked to each of the curriculum areas.

What can students do now?

We have added a range of tools and information to our website for students and families to access:

- In the subject pages on our website, we have added information about how each subject might link to potential careers.
- On our main careers page, we have added a careers widget and up to date labour market information to assist with making informed choices about career opportunities locally.

Watling Careers week was an exciting event and we will continue to offer and explore opportunities for our students to support their decisions regarding career pathways and training.

Mr Stormer





Summer 2023

Welcome to the last SEMCH Newsletter of the school year for families supporting young people in the South East Midlands. The summer is fast approaching, and this edition of the Newsletter is all about skills! From an employer's perspective skills are as important as qualifications. The summer break is a great time to support the young people in your family with building their transferrable skills that will ultimately make them more employable in the future. This Newsletter is packed with ideas for how to do that and details of useful websites and activities you can access with your young people. You can find more information on SEMLEP and the SEMCH, including our live opportunities portal, on our [website](#).

Teamwork

Teamwork means working with others to get something done. This can include recognising the value of other people's ideas and what skills they have, including everyone in group discussions as well as contributing yourself, spotting if you or someone else is getting into an argument and taking steps to avoid it, and reflecting on a team's progress and suggesting steps to improve.

Activities:

Try these games in your family household or encourage your young people to play them with friends.

1. Stand in a circle with each person holding the index finger of their right hand at chest height. Place a stick or balloon across the outstretched fingers. Lower the stick to the floor without it falling off. If anyone's finger loses contact with the stick, you must start again!
2. The challenge is, in 30/45/60 seconds, to arrange yourselves in a line in order of height, age, shoe size, alphabetical first names. To make it harder do this without talking!

Speaking and Listening

Giving your young person the opportunity to speak to groups of people, people they've never met before, or to speak at length on a topic, are great ways of building up their speaking and listening skills for employability.

Activities:

1. When you're out at a café or restaurant let your young person give the family's order to the waiting staff.
2. Ask them to be a tour guide for the day, pointing out areas of interest and answering questions from other family members.

Staying positive (resilience)

Universities and employers value resilience because studying and working are no different to the rest of life - everything that's worth achieving comes with challenges that need to be overcome. They want to see that if you do badly you will work hard to get a better outcome next time.

Activities:

1. [Geocaching](#) is a great way to build resilience and have fun as a family. Sign up for free, put in your postcode, and put your young person in charge of leading your family to a nearby geocache. There are 6143 to find in this area!
2. Record the Positives – encourage your young person to write down at least 1 thing that went well each day for a week. They can review the positives at the weekend.

Useful websites:

The [National Careers Service](#) has pages on [identifying skills](#) and [developing soft skills](#) that can work through with the young people in your family. There is a separate section on [helping young people make education and career choices](#) that you might also find helpful.

BBC Bitesize is a website that your young people might already be familiar with. This section on [careers](#) is one that you can look at together to help them learn more about the skills they'll need in the world of work.



[Youth Employment UK \(YEUK\)](#) are a Northamptonshire based company who offer [free skills training](#) for all young people from the age of 11. It is free to sign up as a Young Professional, receive the newsletter and enrol on the free online courses they offer.

Linking subjects to career - In/Around/Beyond

Young people are developing employability skills in every subject they study. Some young people and their families feel anxious when they start making choices between subjects. They worry that a 'wrong' choice will rule out future options and limit their career. By understanding the skills they have developed by studying each subject, a young person can start to explore careers in that subject area as well around and beyond it. Here is a worked example:

Subject: History

Careers in and around use the knowledge developed by studying history: understanding the past and how it has influenced the present day. The skills a history student develops allows them to look at careers beyond that require similar skills.

Skills developed by studying history:

Attention to detail	Identify which evidence is important
Finding primary sources of evidence	Connecting evidence and information
Manage and organise large amounts of evidence	Write and present narratives in a compelling way

Careers IN History:

Professional historian
Archivist
Museum curator
Heritage site manager

Careers AROUND History:

Diplomat
Politician
Costume designer for film/television
Antiques valuer or auctioneer

Careers BEYOND History:

Business consultancy
Policy Officer
Detective
Poverty campaigner

The key thing to remember from this is that most employment and study choices do not have specific qualification or subject requirements. Focussing on the skills they develop allows young people to demonstrate their employability no matter what subjects they choose to study.

Try this out with your young person and work out the in/around/beyond of their preferred subjects.

Adapted from K. Daubney (2021) *Careers Education to Demystify Employability* OUP:London.

Literacy for employability

This report by the [National Literacy Trust](#) demonstrates the importance of good literacy skills for employability. In the workplace, young people will need skills in spelling, punctuation and grammar, the ability to research, redact and communicate information, the ability to produce appropriate business correspondence, and communication in general.

Activities:

Younger children can get involved in the [Summer Reading Challenge](#) at their local library.



Young people aged 14-17 can gain experience by volunteering at their library to support with children's activities and awarding the stickers, certificates and medals that are part of the challenge.

Numeracy for employability

Numeracy is essential for making sense of things like time, space, money, and data. Young people need to be confident with numbers to figure out how long it takes to get somewhere, budget for a holiday, or investigate a statistic reported on the news. Numeracy is highly valued by universities and employers because many subjects and professions use numbers.

Activities:

1. If you're planning a day out or a holiday away, put your young person in charge of the budget. Tell them how much there is to spend, what that needs to pay for and for how many people.
2. Ask your young person to make plans for a day out with friends or family, including how long each part will take and a breakdown of how much it will cost.
3. Challenge your young person to make savings on your weekly (or monthly) expenses such as food and utilities. Ask them to explain their choices.

Does your employer support volunteering days?

You can get involved with the work of the South East Midlands Careers Hub in several ways:

- Give an Hour – to support one-off events like careers fairs or mock interview days.
- Become an Enterprise Adviser and commit to an on-going relationship with a school to support them with the strategic development of their careers programme.
- Ask your employer to offer work experience, work shadowing or employer visits for local young people
- More details [here](#)

Opportunities

EMBRACING A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

At Watling Academy, we firmly believe in providing our students with a wide range of opportunities beyond the regular school day. We are thrilled to announce the successful and well-attended clubs that have enriched our students' experiences. From sports to creative pursuits, our students have made the most of these fantastic opportunities and represented the school with pride.

Sports enthusiasts have been actively engaged in clubs such as Basketball, Rugby, Tennis, Rounders, Athletics, and Cricket. Through their hard work and determination, many of our students have achieved remarkable success in school fixtures and competitions, and we couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments.

Students with a flair for the arts have showcased their talent and dedication through rehearsals for our school production, 'Game of Tiaras.' Their hard work culminated in an incredible performance that left the audience spellbound. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the staff, students, parents, and the wider school community for their support and enthusiasm.

Some of our Science Leaders were thrilled to attend the Big Bang Science Fair in Birmingham, they had a day filled with exciting discoveries and immersive experiences. Their participation in this event further ignited their passion for scientific exploration.

As we reflect on the achievements and success of our clubs, we eagerly anticipate the new academic year in September. We are committed to expanding our provision and offering an even more amazing range of clubs for our students. Keep an eye out for details through ParentMail on how to sign up for Term 1 clubs. We look forward to another year of growth, enrichment, and endless possibilities for our students at Watling Academy.

Mr Stormer



THORPE PARK TRIP

YEAR 8: A DAY OF RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, AND KINDNESS

Year 8X and 8Y recently enjoyed a thrilling and fun-filled trip to Thorpe Park. The event was eagerly anticipated by both staff and students, and it exceeded all expectations. Our students displayed impeccable behaviour throughout the day, showcasing remarkable examples of respect, responsibility, and kindness.

Despite the bustling crowds at Thorpe Park, our students embraced the opportunity with maturity and made the most of their day. From the daredevils seeking thrills to the more cautious students, every single one of them enjoyed the experience to the fullest. It was truly heartwarming to witness our students bonding together, looking out for one another, and creating lasting memories in such a thrilling environment.

We are incredibly proud of our students and their ability to represent Watling Academy with such distinction. We look forward to more enriching experiences and opportunities for growth in the future.

Mr Stormer



Nyah, Annabel, Agnes, May-Lou, Faith and Myla



MK SCHOOLS ATHLETICS FEDERATION CUP

On the 28th June, Watling took 6 teams comprising of 50 students to Stantonbury Campus Stadium to represent our school at the Federation Athletics Cup. This event is where all 14 secondary schools in Milton Keynes compete in all athletics events to be the winning school teams.

Our teams represented Watling with pride and supported each other impeccably.

We had some great successes on the day with not only some fantastic individual performances but also some great team performances.

Overall, we had a total 13 1st positions across the field and track events. This led to our teams with final standings (out of 14 schools):

Year 7 Girls: 1st (Winners of Javelin and Discus)

Year 7 Boys: 3rd (Winners of 100m, 1500m and Relay)

Year 8 Girls: 11th

Year 8 Boys: 6th (Winners of 100m, 200m and Relay)

Year 9 Girls: 1st (Winners of 200m, 300m, Relay, Shot Putt and Javelin)

Year 9 Boys: 3rd

This was a fantastic event and we can't wait to build on this success next year.

Miss Willison



SCHOOL GAMES—YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL

After winning the Year 7 Girls Football League in the Winter season, it meant that our girls football team automatically qualified for the School Games County Finals. This meant that the girls would play the best teams in the County.

After lots of games they were crowned the School Games Girls Football Winners of 2023!

Miss Willison



Top row: Ella, Ariel, Orla, Amirah, Emily and Matifadza

Bottom row: Evie, Shaye, Skye, Jessica, and Mia-Rose,



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On 10th June the Bucks County Athletics Championships were held at Stantonbury Stadium. This event is where the entire county competes to become County champions and to potentially qualify to represent Bucks in the National Schools Athletics Championships.

Watling entered over 15 athletes across the events and had some fantastic successes! All students represented the school well and we made a new schools record where we had 3 finalists in the U14s Boys 100m (out of 29 entries). Special mention also goes to Olivia in Year 9 who ran the 800m with a English Schools qualifying standard and her own PB. This time means that she can now qualify to represent Bucks at the National competition.

Full list of Watling results and successes:

Year 7s:

Evie – 1st in the Javelin with a PB of 23.9m

Shaye – 3rd in the Javelin: 15.25m

Skye– 6th in the 800m: 2mins 49 secs

Alex – 6th in the 800m: 2mins 56 secs

Results continued on page 27



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

U14s:

Abiola – 3rd in the 100m Final: 12.3s

Maxwell – 6th in the 100m Final: 12.6s

Eniola – 8th in the 100m Final: 12.7s

Rasheed – 6th in the 200m Final: 27.6s

Zeyn – 5th in the Long Jump: 4.74m

Ben – 2nd in the Discus: 18.7m

Sian – 9th in the 200m: 31.1s

Olivia – 1st in the 800m: 2mins 16 secs (ENGLISH SCHOOLS STANDARD)

Sofia – 7th in the 800m: 2mins 43secs

Zezi – 9th in the Javelin: 15.39m



Miss Scarr

Abiola, Maxwell and Eniola



Abiola



Olivia and Sofia

SUMMER SPORTS—TENNIS

This term we have had the chance to introduce our students to the new sport of Tennis. We are very lucky that we have 8 tennis courts on site for students to use in both lessons, extra-curricular and at social times. We have also been fortunate enough to work closely with Wolverton Tennis Club to offer extra-curricular clubs run by tennis coaches. These have been well received and we will be looking to put on other opportunities for more students to get involved with the club as well.

Over the summer term we have also hosted the MK Schools Tennis tournaments where each school can enter 4 tennis players to compete and play. We had 4 girls and 4 boys represent us at all 3 tournaments (Year 7s, U13s and U15s). These were great events for students to learn what it is like to play competitive matches in both singles and doubles. A special mention goes to **Zeyn** in Year 8 who managed to win the U13s Boys tournament through beating all the other schools!

Miss Willison



Refugee Week Celebration

REFUGEE WEEK

Refugee Week is a culture festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. It is held in June around World Refugee Day, which is on 20th June. Every year, Refugee Week has a different theme. This year the theme is 'compassion'.

To commemorate this event, our students were given the opportunity to enter an art competition, which was to design a poster to show what compassion looks like in action. Also, our Librarian, Miss Williams created a list with recommended reads related to Refugee Week.

Throughout the week, Mrs Sadowska, Mrs Gallagher and the Language Ambassadors, ran assemblies to promote better understanding of why people seek sanctuary. We talked about the famous people like Freddie Mercury and Rita Ora, whose families fled to England. Many refugees have made a massive cultural, social and economic contribution to life in the UK. At Watling Academy, we are fortunate to have students and staff members from different backgrounds, and we value their contributions to our community.

Mrs Sadowska



House Event

WATLING SPORTS DAY!

On the 12th July we had our first ever Watling Sports Day!

The whole school came together in their houses to compete in numerous sporting events including football, netball, basketball, tug of war, javelin, shot putt, discus, long jump, 100m, 200m, 800m and relays.

Every student wore their house bib with pride and supported their form.

There was a fantastic display of sporting ability with some amazing athletic performances, as well as great team performances in the invasion games and the tug of war!

The final results were as follows:

1st Place – **LAINE**

2nd Place – **TURING**

3rd Place – **MARSHALL**

4th Place – **LEYH**

5th Place – **RUTHERFORD**

The results of the 100m finals were:

Year 7 Girls—**Janice**

Year 8 Boys—**Abiola**

Year 8 Girls – **Kay-ah**

Year 9 Girls—**Elisabeth**

Year 7 Boys—**Robert**

Year 9 Boys—**Rasheed**



Sophie and Mrs Palmer

Miss Willison

For more photos of our Sports Day see pages 29 to 31.

WATLING SPORTS DAY! - PHOTOGRAPHS



Jenefa, Elisabeth, Janelle, Jada, Zezi, Valerie and Jemima



Isaac



House Event

WATLING SPORTS DAY! - PHOTOGRAPHS



Hazam and Marcel



Sienna and Lily



Luke, Armaan, Mohamed, Sai and Fraser

WATLING SPORTS DAY! - PHOTOGRAPHS



Noah, Amelia, Bianca, Caiden and Leo



Year 7—Spirited Arts and Poetry Competition

The RE department hosted our annual Watling inspired '**Spirited Arts and poetry competition**' as part of the RE summer term unit exploring the symbols of the six major world religions and to understand what each of them represents and reflects on individual identity and symbolism. Students were given the opportunity to enter the competition with 6 themes to choose from:

1. "We have far more in common with each other than that which divides us."
2. Green faith, green future? ('God's good earth')
3. Where is God today?
4. Faith in action, Values in action
5. Sacred Space and Holy Buildings
6. "All God's Creatures?"

All student entries were given house points and winning entries received certificates and additional house points – Well done!

Miss Bibi



The theme I decided to go with was "Where is God Now?", and my drawing depicts God on the cover of Time magazine, as Person of the Year. I have two reasons for this; one is that God is everywhere, watching over you to make sure you are faithful and two is that God continuously spreader love, so that he won Person of the Year for his gratitude as respect.



Emma

Chosen theme: All God's creatures.

Title of my piece: Curious creatures

The curious creatures of our Earth

I've loved them all since my birth,

They all have their own amazing soul,

They all have feelings from a slug to a foal,

Wherever they are short or tall,

I adore every single animal,

They all deserve RRK,

As that is the Watling way,

They help us, we help them,

You should learn about all that in STEM,

You should treat animals as well as you treat each other,

Animals have feelings too,

And of them, I hope your now a lover too.

Felicity

Religious Education

Sofia


Name:
Date:
Title of my piece: *God's Creation*
Chosen theme: *Small Creation*



Written piece:
My drawing is about God's creation. I drew a cow, a dog, and a cat. I also drew a river and some trees. I think God is very good at creating things. I like to see all the things that God has made. I think God is very powerful and I like to see all the things that God has made. I think God is very powerful and I like to see all the things that God has made.

Sanaya


Name:
Date:
Title of my piece: *Om Symbol*
Chosen theme: *Om Symbol*



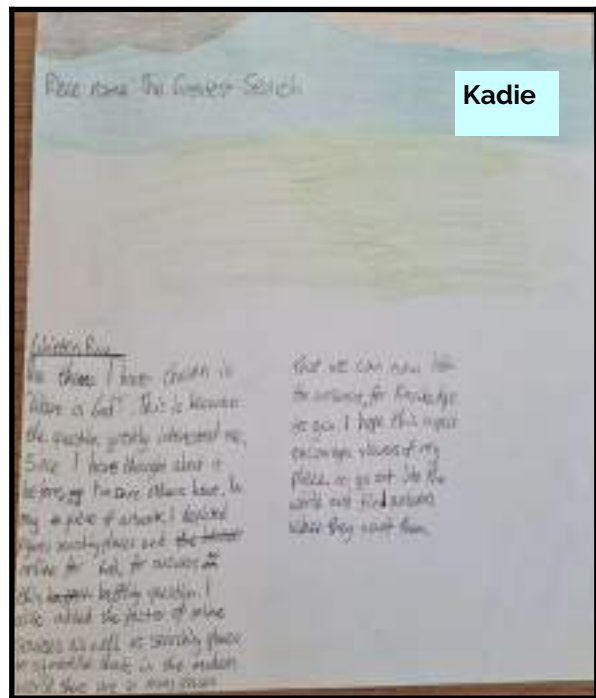
Written piece:
The Om symbol is a sacred spiritual symbol in Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. It is a Sanskrit letter representing the sound of the universe. It is a symbol of the human body, mind, and spirit. It is a symbol of the universe and the human body. It is a symbol of the universe and the human body. It is a symbol of the universe and the human body.

Lauren

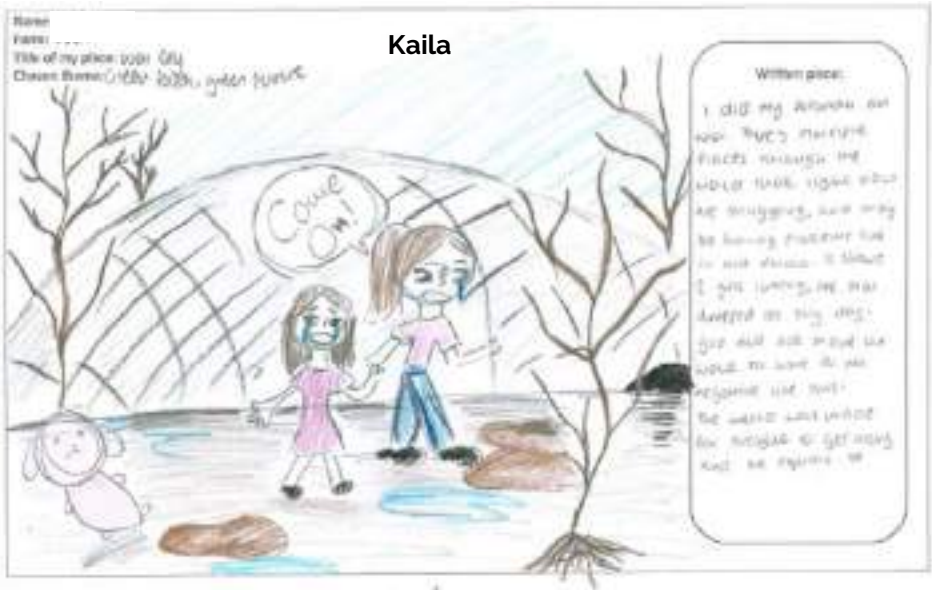
Name:
Date:
Title of my piece: *God's Creation*
Chosen theme: *Small Creation*



Written piece:
I chose to draw the ship to show how the Earth is dying and how it is like the Ark. (Noah's Ark) is saving a man and his family. It shows how the world is dying and how it is like the Ark. (Noah's Ark) is saving a man and his family. It shows how the world is dying and how it is like the Ark. (Noah's Ark) is saving a man and his family.

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Religious Education





House Champions—

2022 / 2023 has been full of house activities and competitions, culminating in one of our biggest events, sports day.

Next year we are planning on making our house system even bigger with more competitions, events and a new House council. Congratulations to Miss Okutu and Mrs Combs who have been promoted into new roles at Watling. However, we are fortunate to welcome Miss Palmer and Miss Kennedy to the team next year.

Our House Champions for next year are as follows-

- Leyh- Mrs Hollingsworth
- Laine- Miss Palmer
- Marshall- Mrs Hardie
- Rutherford- Mr Green
- Turing- Miss Kennedy

Finally, after a year of fierce competitions and students contributing with the house points they have earned our House Champions for 2022 /2023 are....

Position	House	House Points Total
1st	Turing	54189
2nd	Leyh	53929
3rd	Marshall	51200
4th	Laine	50393
5th	Rutherford	49551

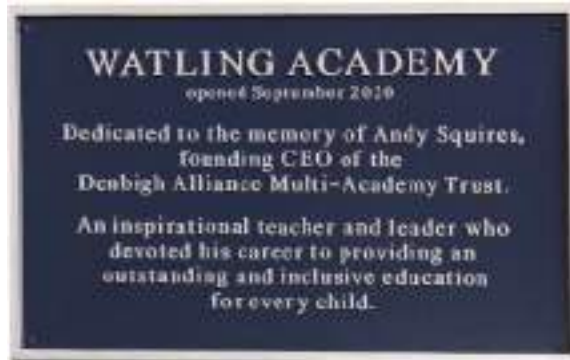
Mr Gibbs



WATLING NOTICE BOARD

MR ANDY SQUIRES

For anyone visiting our reception area, you will notice that there is now a plaque on the wall in remembrance of Mr Andy Squires, CEO of the Denbigh Alliance Trust, who gave almost 20 years of dedicated service to the Denbigh Community before his untimely passing in 2022. Mr Squires was instrumental in creating Watling Academy and the Denbigh Alliance Multi Academy Trust and worked tirelessly to provide the highest quality of education, care and opportunity to thousands of students.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

Watling will reopen on Wednesday 6th September for Year 7 students only, and will reopen for Years 8, 9 and 10 on Thursday 7th September.

School photos—Fri 8th Sep

Y8 Learning Pathways—Thu 21st Sep

Y9 Learning Pathways—Thu 28th Sep

Y10 Learning Pathways—Thu 5th Oct

Y7 Learning Pathways—Thu 12th Oct

End of half term—Fri 20th Oct @ 3:15pm

POLITE REMINDER ABOUT STUDENT ABSENCE PROCEDURE

In the event your child is unable to attend school, you must advise our Attendance Officer of any student absence before 08:00am each day. You must also notify us of any appointments made during the school day. However, we do ask that you book appointments outside of school.

Absences can be reported by telephoning 01908 794094 and selecting Option 1, using the ParentMail app, or by emailing attendance@watling.academy. Please include your child's name, full details of the absence, and when you expect your child to return to school.