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Newsletter

WORDS FROM MR BACON, HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents & Carers

A warm welcome to the first Watling Academy Newsletter of this Academic Year. I can't believe we are 7 weeks in and have reached half term already!

I'd like to start by saying a special welcome and 'well done' to our new year 7 students who joined us on 6th September. It is always a big step starting secondary school and I would like to congratulate them all on how well they have adjusted and settled into 'big school' life. I would also like to mention all the other year groups as well and welcome them back too. There is always an element of adjustment going into a new school year, whatever age, with new teachers, timetables and subjects, so a big 'well done' to them too. We now have our Year 10 starting their option subjects and the school now feels more mature and vibrant and much fuller. It's very exciting to see.

I would also like to offer a warm welcome to the new members of staff who have joined us, both teaching and associate. We will be continuing our recruitment drive as the school is still growing, with more new staff joining us throughout the year and of course next September.

Last night, we held our Open Evening for potential new students. It was amazing to meet so many families keen to experience what Watling has to offer and despite the torrential downpour we still had over 1500 visitors! The feedback from parents was incredibly positive and we are looking forward to receiving the Year 6 applications in due course. Thank you to everyone who took part and helped to create such a brilliant event, it was a testament to all who are part of the Watling Community.

The beginning of the new school year is always an extra busy time, but as you will see whilst reading through this edition, there have been many additional activities that have taken place already including our Learning Pathways evening for all year groups, trips and workshops, sporting fixtures, Student Council elections, House competitions, PTA meetings and much more. A big thank you to all who have participated, supported and organized events.

As we look forward to another busy few weeks during the run up to Christmas, it just leaves me to say that as the darker nights are approaching, I would just remind everyone of the safety of our students and ensure that they have lights if they walk or cycle to school and that they wear appropriate clothing so that they can be easily seen.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe half-term and I look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday 30th October.

Ian Bacon, Headteacher



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- End of half-term— Fri 20th Oct @ 3:15pm
- School reopens —Mon 30th Oct
- Form Tutor Consultation Evening—Thu 30th Nov
- Performing Arts Showcase—Thu 14th Dec
- Christmas Jumper Day—Fri 15th Dec
- End of term—Thu 21st Dec



Open Evening

OPEN EVENING

The Open Evening on Thursday 19th October was a resounding success, with almost 1,500 local families attending and showing a keen interest in what our school has to offer. The event ran well, and there was a palpable buzz in the air as visitors explored the campus and spoke with our knowledgeable staff and enthusiastic students. A huge thank you to all staff and students for their hard work and a special mention goes to our car parking assistants who did a sterling job in spite of the bad weather.

Mr Bacon spoke proudly in his presentation about our school, extracurricular activities, and community outreach initiatives. He was supported brilliantly by Elliott, a Year 7 student who described his experience of joining Watling. Attendees were impressed by the wide range of opportunities available to our students, and many expressed their admiration for our school's commitment to excellence in education.

Overall, the open evening was a fantastic showcase of our school's strengths, and we are confident that it will inspire many families to choose us as their educational home. We would like to thank everyone who attended for their interest and support, and we look forward to welcoming many new students in the coming year.

Mr Gibbs



STUDENT COUNCIL

Firstly, I would like to thank the students who served on the Student Council last year. They did a fantastic job of liaising between the students in their class and the School Leadership Team and considering and offering constructive input on protocol – all whilst remaining true to our Watling Way.

This year we are changing our system slightly; the new role of House Captain has been created. Each of our five Houses (Laine, Leyh, Marshall, Rutherford, Turing) will now be led by two House Captains. The House Captain role is the most senior student position at Watling Academy and will be chosen from students currently in Years 9 and 10. In this role the House Captains will work closely with our House Champions to promote and organise events and nurture their house ethos. The House Captains collectively make up the House Council, where their role is to be agents of positive change as they take on whole-academy portfolios. House Captains will be chosen and in place by the end of the first half-term.

There is no need for students in Years 7 and 8 to be left out as each class in the Academy will be represented by a student from their class (called a House Representative). These students will outline their credentials before being elected by their classmates to this role. As a House Representative they will attend House meetings, working closely with their House Captains and House Champions.

Whilst House Representatives will be chosen after half-term, I am delighted to announce that the following students have been elected by House as House Captains:

Leyh: Janelle and Tulin

Laine: Rasheed and Ruby

Marshall: Lydia and Pranav

Rutherford: Colby and Mihir

Turing: Riley and Yaseen

Earnest also joins us as a House Captain. .

Mrs Dixon



ADA LOVELACE

Mrs Hollingsworth, Mr Houghton and 10 awesome Year 9 girls recently had a blast at Bletchley Park to celebrate Ada Lovelace Day where we had the chance to embark on a journey that was part history lesson and part glimpse into the tech future.

Our adventure started with some real throwback fun! We dialled back the clock to the 80s and got our hands on some classic BBC Microcomputers. The mission? Program the legendary game of Snake using *BBC Basic*. The girls tapped into their inner coders and unleashed their creativity in this retro coding adventure.

RAF Brize Norton's Youth STEM team added some real-world tech insights to our adventure. We had the opportunity to programme and use Sphero's around obstacle courses, challenging each other on precision and speed.

We then had the opportunity to become Code breakers with interactive puzzles, guided by tablets. We went way back in time, tracing the evolution of data representation, Code breaking and use of technology in the war. It was a history lesson with a tech twist, we even got to use a real Enigma machine!

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ADA LOVELACE

Next up, we stepped into the world of virtual reality with "Keep Talking and Nobody Explodes." Picture this: VR headsets, teamwork, and mind-bending puzzles. The girls (and staff) had a blast and honed their problem-solving skills.

We couldn't have celebrated Ada Lovelace Day without recognising the incredible achievements of women in computing. Our trusty tablets led us on a treasure hunt through the museum, uncovering the stories of female tech trailblazers. These women left their mark on the tech world, and our girls were beyond inspired.

Data STEMinism? In this workshop, we dived into the numbers and explored the history of women in STEM fields. We learned about the challenges they faced and the progress they made. It was all about celebrating diversity in tech and igniting a passion for inclusivity.

To sum it up, our Year 9 girls had a blast at Bletchley Park for Ada Lovelace Day. They walked away inspired, equipped with new skills, and ready to conquer the tech world.

Let's keep the tech fires burning and empower more young minds to shape the future of computing! #GirlsInSTEM #STEMINISM.

Mrs Hollingsworth



Careers Month

WATLING ACADEMY CAREERS MONTH

During the month of October, it has been exciting to give all of our students an experience that is designed to support them with their careers pathways of the future. These activities have focussed on engagement with employers, development of employability skills, growing an awareness of the local labour market and the trends that may impact their careers in the future. Milton Keynes is an exciting place to live and these experiences have highlighted the bright opportunities that will be awaiting our students.

Students have also had several opportunities within lessons to discuss possible careers linked to curriculum areas and skills required for these areas. As well as activities linked to employability skills in both Wellbeing lessons and tutorial.

Year 7 – Hays Recruitment

Year 7 students attended an assembly led by the Hays recruitment team. This session focussed on exposing students to possible careers that are growing in the Milton Keynes area, while also discussing the employability skills that students will need.

Year 8 – Worktree Virtual Careers

Virtual Career Workouts are just that – an opportunity for young people to access up-to-date careers information in engaging, flexible and easy to run, online sessions. These sessions supported students with current information about careers and communication skills to pursue them. The remaining students will attend their session on Tuesday the 31st of October.

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HAYS
Recruiting experts
worldwide

WATLING ACADEMY CAREERS MONTH

Year 9 – MK Innovates STEM Careers Event

Year 9 students had the chance to meet industry and professional experts in STEM. Organisations provided activities that support their STEM aspirations, encouraging students to perceive the type of opportunities and jobs that are available to them and can pursue in the future.

Year 10 – Navy: STEM and Employability Skills workshop

The Navy visited Watling Academy and shared their career journeys with Y10 students, while also setting them an exciting STEM challenge that allowed students to work together in a challenging environment. Challenges varied from making a wheelbarrow for a rescue operation, to a communications tower for an area hit by a natural disaster, then converting this to a wind turbine. Students engaged well and enjoyed the challenge. It was great to see the students developing their skills through this practical activity and I received great feedback from the Navy team about the attitude and efforts of our Year 10 students.

As the year proceeds, we will continue to offer students careers information, guidance and support, as well as opportunities to engage with career focussed activities and develop their employability skills. We will soon be introducing the Work Experience process to our Year 10 students, offering a variety of trips to students that will all expose students to potential careers and skill development. We will also relaunch the platform of Unifrog with both students and parents. This is an incredibly valuable tool for students exploring possible pathways for the future, as well as the skills and training required to pursue these.

Mr Stormer



Extracurricular Provision

WATLING ACADEMY'S EXTRACURRICULAR PROVISION

Watling Academy's commitment to providing students with a wealth of opportunities outside regular school hours has continued this term with more students attending clubs than ever before. We are excited to share the remarkable success and enthusiasm that have characterised our extracurricular clubs. From sports to the arts, our students have fully embraced these fantastic opportunities and displayed our core values while going above and beyond.

In addition to our flourishing roster of activities, we're thrilled to introduce some exciting new clubs, such as Chess, Cheerleading, Fashion Textiles, Dungeons and Dragons, Debating, and Food Club. These fresh additions offer even more avenues for our students to explore and expand their horizons. Chess enthusiasts can now challenge their strategic prowess, while budding cheerleaders can bring their energy to the spotlight. The Fashion Textiles club promises to ignite creativity in the world of fashion, Dungeons and Dragons enthusiasts can delve into a world of imagination and strategy, and our Debating Club provides a platform for students to hone their persuasive skills. Food Club, for the culinary enthusiasts.

Diversity and cultural exploration remain integral to our extracurricular landscape with the Diversity Club and Mandarin Club. Science enthusiasts continue to thrive through our Science Club. Our Lego Club brings the joy of creativity through building and innovation. For those with artistic inclinations, Watling Academy boasts a vibrant variety of Art, Drama and Music Clubs, serving as platforms for self-expression and creativity. We look forward to the performing Arts showcase in December to share our students talent after their hard work.

Our sports enthusiasts continue to thrive, with options including Basketball, Badminton, Football and Rugby. Our dedicated coaches have gone above and beyond to nurture our students' skills and passions in these disciplines. We have seen some extraordinary achievements in sporting fixtures that have made us very proud. The dedication, determination, and hard work displayed by our athletes have yielded some great success stories.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, our focus naturally looks ahead. With Term 2 on the horizon, we are excited to continue expanding our offerings. Our steadfast commitment to providing a diverse range of clubs for our students remains resolute. Stay tuned for forthcoming announcements in your parent mail regarding sign-ups for Term 2 clubs. We eagerly look forward to another term filled with growth, enrichment, and endless possibilities alongside our students at Watling Academy.

Mr Stormer

FRIENDS OF WATLING ACADEMY (FOWA) NOW IN ACTION!

We are thrilled to announce the official formation of the Friends of Watling (FOWA). The FOWA is a vital initiative that will play a pivotal role in strengthening our school community and enhancing the educational experience for our students.

Our FOWA has been hard at work, and we are proud to introduce our dedicated team:

Chair: Fern Bunton
Vice Chair: Debbie Pearman
Treasurer: Amanda Anderson
Shadow Treasurer: Nikki Bedford
Secretary: Clare Hill
Publicity Officer: Wendy Gunes
School Leadership Representative: Cameron Parks

We want to express our deepest gratitude to these individuals for their commitment and enthusiasm in taking on these key roles. Their dedication to our school community is truly commendable.

Throughout the year, FOWA will organise a variety of exciting fundraising activities to support our school's needs and projects. Further information about these activities will be shared closer to the time, so stay tuned for details.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have been instrumental in setting up, organising, and running FOWA. Your commitment to our school community is invaluable.

As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism for a brighter and more connected year. Together, we can achieve great things for our students and our school.

Remember, all parents, carers, and teachers of students at Watling Academy are automatically members. However, FOWA is still looking for parents who wish to get involved in various ways. We have open positions on our General Committee members, which offer diverse opportunities to support our school. Whether it's lending a hand at events, participating in fundraisers, or contributing your unique skills, your involvement will make a significant difference.

If you would like to join us or need more information, please email us at: friendsofwatling@gmail.com



Friends of Watling Academy

Black History Month

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In October, Watling Academy proudly celebrated Black History Month, a time when we took a moment to recognise the remarkable contributions and histories of Black individuals in the United Kingdom. This year, our theme was "Saluting Our Sisters," shining a light on the often-overlooked achievements of Black women who have made lasting impacts on British society.

Hidden Stories: Celebrating Success

Throughout the month, we had the privilege of delving into the "Hidden Stories" of successful Black people who came to Britain and then settled in our very own Milton Keynes. Their stories are a testament to resilience, determination, and the pursuit of dreams. We discovered the inspiring lives of these individuals as they grew up in our community, bringing their unique experiences and cultural diversity to the heart of our town.

Black Culture on Display

To immerse ourselves further in the rich tapestry of Black culture, we screened a series of movies and TV shows celebrating the vibrant contributions of Black individuals to art, music, and society. From Monday to Thursday, during lunchtimes, we had the opportunity to appreciate the diverse talents and creativity that have enriched our lives.

Tutor Time

In addition to our screenings, we hosted a range of tutorial sessions during tutor time, which allowed our students to engage deeply with the history of Black Britain and Black culture. These sessions served as a platform for discussions, learning, and appreciation. We believe that knowledge and awareness are key to fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

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CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Saluting Our Sisters

Our theme this year, "Saluting Our Sisters," pays homage to the remarkable Black women who have often had their contributions ignored, ideas appropriated, and voices silenced. Their impact has been immeasurable, and we celebrate their achievements in all fields, from activism and the arts to science and politics.

In conclusion, Black History Month has provided us with a valuable opportunity to appreciate the remarkable diversity and talent within our own community and the broader context of the United Kingdom. As we continue to learn and grow, let's remember that recognising and celebrating Black history isn't limited to just one month; it's a year-round commitment to promoting inclusivity and diversity in our school and society.

Thank you for joining us in celebrating Black History Month at Watling Academy.

Mr Parks



House Champions



HOUSE CHAMPIONS

Welcome back to a new school year at Watling Academy, and what an exciting start it has been! Our celebrated house system is back in action, bringing a dash of friendly competition and a whole lot of fun to our academic journey.

Marshmallow Madness

To kick off the year, our five houses - Marshall, Turing, Laine, Leyh, and Rutherford - engaged in a peculiar contest. On our Inset Day, our dedicated teaching staff battled it out in an epic showdown of culinary engineering. Armed with marshmallows and spaghetti, they embarked on the quest to construct the tallest tower imaginable.

Turing's tower, although a tad small at just 31cm, proved to be the 'mini' sensation of the contest. In stark contrast, Leyh reached for the stars with a towering achievement of 90cm. It seems that a 'sweet' victory was all they needed to rise above the rest.

Eggcellent Engineers

With the start of Year 7, our students were handed their first challenge: to design a landing craft that could safely transport two raw eggs from a dizzying height of 4 meters. The suspense was palpable as the young engineers embarked on this gravity-defying quest.

Turing's teams pulled off a cracking performance, boasting three eggcellent designs that stood up to the challenge. Meanwhile, Laine students displayed remarkable ingenuity, managing to have three raw eggs safe and sound before the dropping had even commenced. These fledgling engineers are definitely on the sunny side of success!

Unveiling the House Champions

In our third week back, the House Champions took centre stage, introducing Year 7s to their new houses and kick-starting the race for the coveted title of House Point Champions for the year 2023-2024. The enthusiasm was contagious and it's safe to say that the friendly competition is well and truly underway!





LAINE HOUSE UPDATE

In this half term Laine has made remarkable steps in various areas. For the first three weeks, we proudly held the top position on the house point leaderboard, showcasing our commitment to excellence. Although we've currently moved into the second place, our spirited students continue to display their dedication and determination. 7MCOL have earned the third most house points in the entire school so far and are representing our house brilliantly! Additionally, Laine house members participated actively in the Art Department's Sticky Note Art Competition, securing an impressive second place in overall contributions. Furthermore, our students have been exceptional ambassadors for the school, representing us in various sports fixtures, and consistently embodying values of respect, responsibility, and kindness. We're excited to witness their continued achievements in the coming weeks.

If you/your child is a Laine student and have any achievements you would like to be considered to be shared in the next school newsletter please email palmerk@watling.academy with a brief description of the achievement and any relevant photos that could be included.

Miss Palmer



Willen Hospice
always there to care

House Champions



LEYH HOUSE UPDATE

Leyh House has faced some challenges in climbing the leader board this half term, but we're not letting that dampen our spirits! As of now, we're holding down the fourth spot, and our incredible students are proving their enthusiasm and dedication time and time again. We are proud to say, one of our Leyh House members has the most House Points in the entire school. Leading the pack with an impressive 152 house points!

Our students have shown amazing dedication and teamwork, representing us in various sports events and fixtures. They've also been racking up the subject awards in celebration assemblies for displaying respect, responsibility, and kindness in their subjects. But that's not all – our Leyh House members have recently been making waves in Chess club, securing a fantastic first place in the chess puzzle competition.

We are ready to take back our rightful place (First) in the term ahead. The future looks bright for Leyh House!

If you/ your child has any achievements you'd like us to consider for the next school newsletter, please drop me an email at hollingsworthk@watling.academy. Just give us a brief description of the achievement and share any relevant photos. Let's celebrate those successes together!

Mrs Hollingsworth





MARSHALL HOUSE UPDATE

We are thrilled to bring you the latest update on the outstanding achievements of our students here in Marshall. It is truly heartwarming to see our students consistently demonstrating respect, responsibility, and kindness in their everyday actions. A special shout-out to our leading house point tutor group, 7MPRA! Well done, keep up the great work! The following students have gone above and beyond in their dedication to Marshall House, being the top house point contributors; Lilly, Neiwa and Rose.

Many of our talented students have enthusiastically participated in the Inktober art competition. Their creativity and dedication to honing their artistic skills have not gone unnoticed; Marshall is filled with incredible entries.

Thank you to our students, parents, and staff for making Marshall a truly remarkable community to be in.

If you/ your child has any achievements you'd like us to consider for the next school newsletter, please drop me an email at Hardiej@watling.academy. Just give us a brief description of the achievement and share any relevant photos. Let's celebrate those successes together!

Mrs Hardie



House Champions



RUTHERFORD HOUSE UPDATE

During this term, Rutherford House faced some challenges in our journey up the leaderboard. But don't worry, we're still going strong in the third spot, thanks to our awesome students who keep showing their dedication and enthusiasm.

Exciting news: one of our Rutherford House members ranks third in House Points schoolwide!

Our students have been rocking it, not only in sports events but also by earning subject awards for being respectful, responsible, and kind in their studies. And that's not all - our Rutherford House members are making a big impact in Chess Club, grabbing first place in the overall chess competition.

Got any achievements that you would like to be considered for our next school newsletter? Email me at greend@watling.academy with a brief description and photos. Let's celebrate these successes together!

Mr Green





TURING HOUSE UPDATE

We are excited to share the latest highlights from our fantastic students here in Turing. It's heartwarming to witness our students consistently embodying values like respect, responsibility, and kindness in their daily actions. A special shout-out goes to our impressive Turing Year 10's, who are a whopping 1653 HP's ahead of every other house! Keep up the great work!

Over this past half term, many of our talented students have wholeheartedly taken part in various competitions and fixtures. Their resourcefulness and unwavering commitment to honing their skills haven't gone unnoticed; Turing is home to a remarkable group of students.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, parents, and staff for making Turing a truly exceptional community to be a part of.

If you/ your child has any achievements you'd like us to consider for the next school newsletter, please drop me an email at kennedyg@watling.academy. Just give us a brief description of the achievement and share any relevant photos. Let's celebrate those successes together!

Miss Kennedy



LESSON PUNCTUALITY

To maximise the effectiveness of lessons of we place a high level of importance on students arriving on time to and staying in those lessons for the full hour. All students are given ample movement time between lessons where they can use the toilets if they need to.

We would appreciate the support of parents and carers in ensuring that all students arrive to lessons on time. I would also like to make you aware of our procedure to tackle and communicate lateness to lessons.

- Heads of Year monitor lateness to lessons throughout the week.
- If a student has lateness but it equates to less than 10 minutes then they will be monitored by the Head of Year, if improvement is made no further action is taken.
- Any student who accrues more than 10 late minutes during the week will be issued a detention after school. This will be communicated through Classcharts.
- In addition to this we will communicate to parents and Carers via Parentmail if a child is between 20 and 40 minutes late and a separate Parentmail will be sent if any student accrues more than 40 late minutes.
- Where lateness to lessons continues to be an issue then the Head of Year will intervene and implement further actions which can include, Parent / Carer meetings and a Punctuality report.

Mr Gibbs



CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

This half term we have kickstarted our first celebration assemblies of the year. Each half term Watling Academy aims to recognise student effort and achievement across the school with these assemblies taking place for every year group. A massive well done to all the students who received an award! It was wonderful to recognise our students for a variety of positive behaviour including outstanding effort in lessons, demonstrating the school values in school and on trips, and being fantastic participants in tutor time. Students also had the opportunity to get their first badge of the year with many students receiving their bronze badge. We look forward to seeing which of our students will be gaining their silver badges next!

Mr Humphris

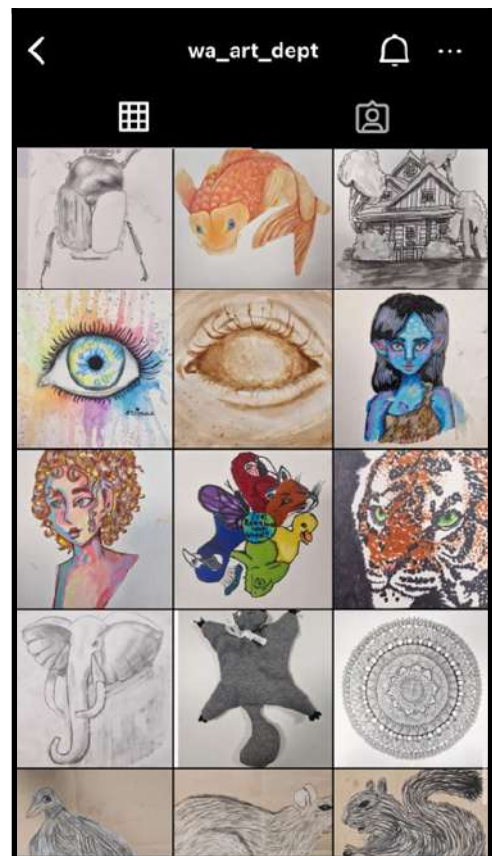


ART INSTAGRAM

@wa_art_dept Watling Art Department

Follow us on Instagram! @wa_art_dept

Our Instagram is where we share great work from lessons, competition entries, homework and any other brilliant art that students have shared with us in school. This is the place for students, friends and family to see and celebrate all of our talented artists! We also share upcoming competitions and other opportunities.



ART INSTRAGRAM

@wa_art_dept Watling Art Department



Miss Palmer

AUTUMN TERM ART COMPETITIONS

September Sticky Notes

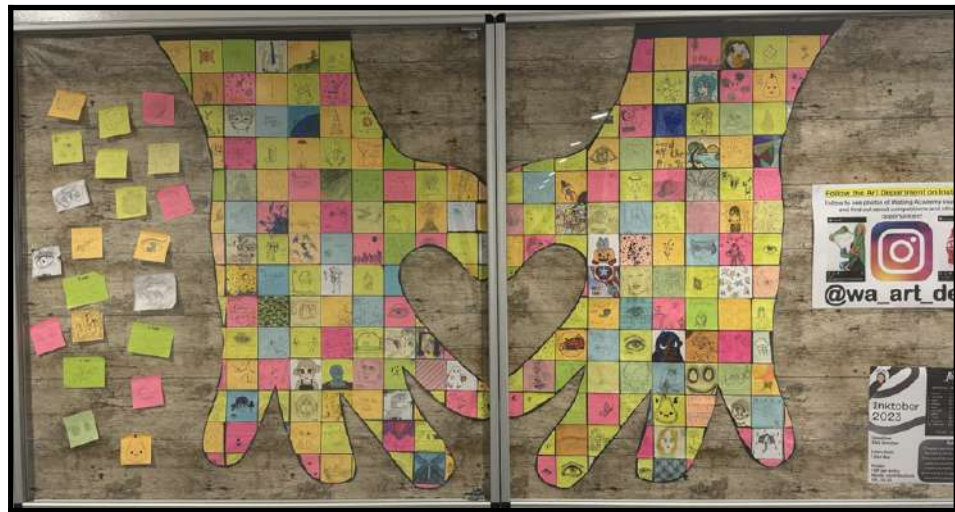
The first half term has seen a plethora of sticky note artworks submitted and a beautiful display completed. Students have outdone themselves this year with the quality of their teeny tiny masterpieces and students and staff alike have enjoyed admiring the hard work of Watling Academy's artists.

House results:

1st place: Marshall

2nd place: Laine

3rd place: Turing



AUTUMN TERM ART COMPETITIONS

October Inktober

October sees the launch of Inktober. A global drawing challenge that sees people attempt to do a drawing a day in response to the given prompt. You may choose to do the whole marathon and produce a drawing a day or could opt for one a week instead or a lesser challenge. So far we have seen some spooky spiders and terrific toads.

All submissions will be shared on our Instagram page: wa_art_dept. During November we will announce the winners for each day's theme in an advent style reveal. I.E. the winner for the 1st October's prompt (dream) will be announced on 1st November and so on...



AUTUMN TERM ART COMPETITIONS

November Architecture Photography Competition

Students are invited to get outside and photograph architecture for this month's competition. This could be local, national or further afield. Photographs could be whole shots or close ups. Students can submit a maximum of 5 photographs by the deadline of November 30th via email to palmerk@watling.academy.

December Paper Crafts

In December, students can produce and submit a total of 1 paper snowflake. Submissions should be put into the blue competition entries folder outside Room 114. Entries will be put on display and one individual winner will be selected alongside the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place house contributions.

Miss Palmer

YEAR 10 ART TRIP TO THE TATE MODERN

On Tuesday 10th October the Art Department took 40 Year 10 students to visit the Tate Modern in London. Students had a great experience, a first time in an art gallery for some. As a group they saw a range of traditional, modern and conceptual artworks. What they saw forced them to question how they viewed art and what they thought about it. Students came away with lots of new insights and questions to help them develop their GCSE coursework and personal views.

Miss Palmer



LIBRARY INSIGHTS

Year 7 have got off to a flying start with more than half of the year group already having visited the Library during social times to borrow a book, and over 400 books borrowed. Students have also been using the Library computers to complete homework tasks and we have seen some encouraging independent learning skills already emerging.

Year 7 Library inductions have been taking place during the past two weeks, with students using the online Library Catalogue to search for and locate books. Students can also access their Library accounts from home at <https://watlingacademy.slls.online/> and log in using the details provided during lesson.

Congratulations and thanks to Mrs Betteridge who won a Reading Agency competition and has donated the books she won to the Library. These books are now available for students to borrow.

Miss Williams



LIBRARY INSIGHTS

Recommended books for reading this Autumn.

Books to Read this AUTUMN



October, October
by Katya Balen
Beautiful and heartbreaking tale of friendship, growing up and nature.



The Witches of Pendle
by Yvette Fielding
A modern day ghostly adventure with a real life historical theme at its heart - the Pendle Witch Trials of 1612.



The Inheritance Games
by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
A billion-dollar fortune to die for. A deadly game. Winner takes all. An addictive thriller.



HOUSE COMPETITIONS IN MFL

There are two exciting competitions taking place during Spanish lessons shortly before the Christmas holidays.

Year 7 – Foreign Language Spelling Bee (week beginning Monday 27th November)



Students at Watling Academy have been really successful in this competition. In 2021 and 2022, the Regional Champion for the Southeast of England has come from this school. We have also had two students (Liana, now in Year 9 and Jenisha, now in Year 10) reaching the National Finals on both occasions. This is because of their hard work and dedication when preparing for the competitions. Part of their success is also arguably because the overall strength of the year group pushed them to do so well. We hope their success inspires our current Year 7 students in this competition.

During the 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.

To prepare there will be a series of challenge home learning tasks. We strongly encourage students to have a go, as it will help with pronunciation, spelling and knowledge of key words.

Mr Scott

HOUSE COMPETITIONS IN MFL

Years 8 and 9 – Foreign Language Translation Bee (week beginning Monday 4th December)



As mentioned in the above section, our students enjoyed a lot of success in the Spelling Bee competition in Year 7. Last year one of our Year 9 students, Gabriel (now in year 10) reached the National Final in the Foreign Language Translation Bee. Again, we hope his success inspires others to do the same this year.

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 4th 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

SPORTING FIXTURES

The Watling Academy fixtures this half term have been nothing short of a resounding success, both in league and cup competitions.

The Academy's sports teams have shown dedication and skill, consistently delivering outstanding performances on the pitch/court.

In the leagues, the different teams have shown have demonstrated exceptional teamwork and determination, secured impressive victories and solidifying their positions at the top of their respective leagues.

Additionally, the Year 8 boys, Year 9 boys and U13 girls' remarkable journey in the football county cup has been a highlight of the half term, with our Academy's athletes showcasing their talent, winning matches through resilience and all progressing through the rounds. Their success is testament to the hard work and commitment of the students here.

The future of sport here at Watling Academy looks incredibly promising, and the whole school community is proud of their achievements this half term!

Miss Willison



Year 8 Girls Netball



Year 9 Boys Football Team

WATLING NOTICE BOARD



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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

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

School reopens —Mon 30th Oct

Form Tutor Consultation Evening—Thu 30th Nov

Performing Arts Showcase—Thu 14th Dec

Christmas Jumper Day—Fri 15th Dec

End of term—Thu 21st Dec



LOST PROPERTY

We have a number of items in 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.

Thank you for your support.

