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Issue 8
2023-2024
watlingacademy.net

Newsletter

WORDS FROM MR BACON, HEADTEACHER

Dear Families

Welcome to our final newsletter of 2023! It doesn't seem five minutes since I was welcoming everyone back in September and here we are with Christmas nearly upon us already.

As you will see in the following pages, it has been a very busy Autumn Term, with lots of activities, fixtures, trips and a performing arts showcase for the students to take part in and enjoy. We have also held a charity Christmas jumper day, Christmas lunch, a cake sale and a food bank collection to name but a few activities. Thank you to everyone who contributed and supported these events - it is very much appreciated.

On a more formal note, we have also had two very exciting pieces of news this term. One is that we now have the official go ahead to raise the funds to open a sixth form from September 2025 which is amazing news and a very important part of the growth of Watling. The other is that following an official inspection, we have now received approval to become an exam centre. Both milestones in Watling's history and very exciting and important for the future of all our students and staff.

As is always sad at the end of a term, we say farewell to some of our colleagues. Mrs Cox, Mr Simmonds, Mrs Honious, Mrs Hole, Mr Lee and Ms Henessey are all leaving us for pastures new. I would like to thank them for all their hard work in supporting the students and helping to get Watling Academy to this point and wish them every success in their new roles. On the other side of this is of course that we will be welcoming new staff to the Academy on 8th January - Mr Andrew Simpson, (Head of History), Mr Kasey Williams (Head of Spanish), Mrs Deanne Antoine and Miss Kirsty Maley (Maths Teachers), together with Ms Sonia Ramos-Gardel (Trainee Teacher) and Mrs Emma Windsor (Deputy Operations Manager). A huge Watling welcome to them all.

A final thank you goes to you all for continuing to support our students in everything they do at Watling and also to all the staff for their continued efforts and hard work.

I wish you and your families a very safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 8th January 2024.

Ian Bacon
Headteacher



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- End of term— Thu 21st Dec @ 3:15pm
- School reopens —Mon 8th Jan
- Year 9 Options Evening—Thu 25th Jan @ 5:00pm to 7:30pm
- Y9 & Y10 Progress Reports —Fri 2nd February
- YgM Subject Consultation Evening—Thu 8th Feb @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- YgK Subject Consultation Evening—Thu 15th Feb @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- End of half-term—Fri 16th Feb @ 3:15pm
- School reopens—Mon 26th Feb



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

Dear Parents and Carers

The Watling Local School Board (LSB) comprises dedicated volunteers who collaborate closely with the school's senior leadership team in monthly meetings. Our mission is strategic, focusing on guiding the school's future direction and addressing current challenges when necessary. We play a critical role in shaping and overseeing the school's policies and report our findings to the Denbigh Multi Academy Trust. There are even biscuits at the meetings.

Our board diligently monitors key aspects of school life such as safeguarding, house points, behavioural points, academic grades, and student attendance. These elements are vital for the smooth operation of any school, and the LSB provides counsel and engages in meaningful discussions to enhance these areas. This year, 2023, has been particularly eventful with various topics influencing the school's trajectory:

Growth: Watling has again taken on board a whole new year group of Year 7 at one end, and is now starting GCSEs in Year 10 at the other. It's good to see how the school is managing growth. The community around us is growing too, with even more families moving into the Fairfield and Whitehouse estates, and the new Watling Primary School opening its doors.

However, growth also presents unique challenges. We've been engaged in discussions around student behaviour, acknowledging the complexities brought by a larger and older student population. Efforts are ongoing to address safety and traffic congestion around the school, especially with the ongoing development of the surrounding estate.

GCSEs and Sixth Form: The school has now completed the paperwork and approvals to become an exam centre - and a Sixth Form too. In 2024 there will be more to do to prepare for Year 11 (and Year 12!). These were critical milestones for the school to make it passed and it's a huge achievement - so congratulations to the whole team behind this effort.

Careers and Trips: Parents and carers will have seen an improvement to the way the school handles trips. Many thanks go to the staff who have made the trips process better with a clearer calendar and better ways for families to plan for these outings. Watling has set up new processes around careers and work experience, which will be seen by students in Years 9 and 10 in particular.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Watling Governor they should reach out to either myself (simpsonr@watling.academy) or Watling's Governance professional, Kim Smyth (smythk@watling.academy). I look forward to engaging with anyone keen on contributing to the school's continued success.

Rob Simpson
Chair of Governors





HOUSE COUNCIL

Our newly elected House Captains have been tasked with creating a Leadership Charter which encompasses our school values and ethos – this will be finalised and signed off at our next meeting and displayed in prominent places throughout the school. Each House Captain is acutely aware of the significance in pledging to uphold the principles that will be laid out in this charter.

Earlier this term, the House Council were invited to give feedback and offer suggestions when they met with a Catering Consultant to review our catering service. All ideas given considered the impact on making improvements for our school community without negatively impacting on the environment.

The Council have agreed on the following broad focus areas and volunteered to give of their time to serve on these sub-committees, which includes liaising with the relevant staff members in our Academy:

- Trips & Events
- Eco-Council & Sustainability
- Sport
- Education & Rewards
- Safety & Wellbeing
- Community & Communication

A certain highlight from this term was our recent Year 7 dodge-ball tournament, coordinated by Mr Gibbs and suggested by the House Captains. Congratulations to Mr Hale's Form who were victorious!

We look forward to finding more opportunities where we can make a positive impact going forward.

Mrs Dixon



House Council

House System



WATLING HOUSE SYSTEM THRIVES WITH NEWLY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

The Watling House System is abuzz with excitement as the newly elected House Representatives for the academic year 2023-2024 step into their roles. The election process, a democratic affair, saw students from each form group vying for the opportunity to represent their respective houses and contribute to the vibrant school community.

A hearty congratulations to all the students who applied and were elected to represent their houses. These representatives will play a crucial role in providing student voice and leading various school events throughout the academic year. The following students have been elected as House Representatives:

Laine	Leyh	Marshall
Zaina (gKPR)	Jessica (gHCN)	Shay (gJHE)
Ayaan (gDGR)	Jordan (gCWS)	Annika (gCTY)
Alex (8LHR)	Ian (8SBI)	Delia (8KKN)
Ben (8SFT)	Kori (8YZO)	Janice (8ARD)
Aarya (7SOT)	Charley (7BEH)	James (8GKY)
Cora (7COL)		Lilly (7PRA)
Anya-Grace (7BEN)		Neiwa (7EDG)

Rutherford	Turing
Anna (gDGN)	Ty (gCME)
Mahmoud (gJSY)	Hamad (gKBM)
Mlishika (8SWT)	Alessia (8RBE)
Aiden (7SHN)	Anuja (8AES)
Sammy (7EHE)	Ayishah (7SNR)
Alvin (7SLI)	Ashvika (7JSE)

Cont.



WATLING HOUSE SYSTEM THRIVES WITH NEWLY

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND COMPETITIVE SPIRIT

In addition to the elections, this term featured an array of competitions that showcased the competitive spirit within the Watling House System. Year 7 students engaged in a thrilling dodgeball competition during breaktime, where House Rutherford emerged victorious in a closely contested battle. A huge shout out to the overall winners Mr Hale's Form, who only qualified for the finals as the 'best runners up' but went on to win the whole competition.

The 'Teachers Read Too' competition spirited a contest that blended mystery and books. The challenge? Identifying our beloved teachers by glimpsing only their obscured faces behind the books they are currently engrossed in. In the end, it was Laine's gKPR who clinched victory, their deductive skills proving unmatched. A commendable effort was also put forth by Turing's gCME and Marshall's 10RST, who trailed closely behind, making the competition a resounding success that celebrated the joy of reading amongst both students and staff at Watling.

The Art department organized an architecture competition, drawing impressive entries from House Laine, closely followed by Leyh and Rutherford. Unfortunately, Turing House found themselves in the last place with zero entries, but the spirit of participation and friendly competition prevailed throughout.

In addition to promoting healthy competition, Watling House has also embraced a sense of community service through the Food Bank Drive. The initiative, aimed at supporting the MK Food Bank based at MK Christian Centre in Oldbrook, underscores the students' commitment to respect, responsibility and kindness. Houses are competing to collect the most food donations, with Leyh House having the greatest number of donations.

As the Watling House System continues to foster a sense of community, student engagement, and healthy competition, we look forward to more exciting events and accomplishments in the coming academic year.

Mr Green, Mrs Hardie, Mrs Hollingsworth, Miss Kennedy and Miss Palmer



TUTOR CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

We are delighted to share the success of Watling Academy's recent Tutor Consultation Evening, which took place on the 30th of November. The event, held from 3.45 pm to 8 pm, witnessed an impressive turnout, with a high number of parents in attendance, reflecting the strong commitment of our school community.

The Tutor Consultation Evening served as a valuable opportunity for parents to meet their child's form tutors and engage in meaningful conversations about academic progress and overall well-being. The simplicity of face-to-face interactions during the evening provided a platform for open communication, fostering a deeper understanding between home and school.

This event was not just a chance to discuss grades; it was an opportunity to strengthen the bond between school and home. Parents were able to gain insights into their child's daily experiences at Watling Academy, while form tutors provided valuable feedback, addressing any concerns and celebrating the achievements of our students.

The friendly and welcoming atmosphere created during the evening made it a positive experience for all. It was heartening to see parents actively participating and taking the time to connect with the school community. Such interactions are crucial in building a supportive partnership that contributes to the holistic development of our students.

We extend our gratitude to all the parents who attended, making the Tutor Consultation Evening a success. Your engagement and commitment to your child's education are truly commendable.

As we continue to strengthen the connections between school and home, we look forward to more opportunities for meaningful engagement. Your involvement is key to creating a supportive environment for our students to thrive.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and we appreciate your ongoing support.

Mr Parks



Consultation Evening

FRIENDS OF WATLING ACADEMY (FOWA)

NOW IN ACTION!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and thriving in the academic year. At Watling, we believe in the power of community, and it is heartening to witness the engagement and support from parents, teachers, and friends alike.

On the 13th of November, the Friends of Watling Academy (FOWA) Parent-Teacher Association held a meeting that saw the enthusiastic participation of our dedicated members. Despite the demands of busy schedules, almost all members were present, with two extending their apologies. Additionally, we were delighted to have several general members in attendance, showcasing the collective commitment towards the betterment of our school community.

The meeting covered a spectrum of essential topics aimed at enhancing the FOWA PTA's role in supporting Watling Academy. Here's a glimpse into the key discussions:

- 1. New FOWA Logo:** Excitingly, a new FOWA logo has been designed to reflect the spirit and values of our association. The logo embodies the collaborative essence of FOWA and its commitment to the growth and development of our students.
- 2. Bank Account Opening:** A significant step towards officialising FOWA's activities included the process of opening a bank account. This milestone ensures transparent financial management and paves the way for increased support to the school's initiatives.
- 3. Future Events and Ideas:** The meeting buzzed with creativity as members brainstormed future event ideas. Among them, a delightful cake sale captured the imagination, promising not only sweet treats but also a platform for community bonding and fundraising.

Cont.



FRIENDS OF WATLING ACADEMY (FOWA)

NOW IN ACTION!

4. **Charity Registration:** Considering the positive impact FOWA can have beyond our school gates, discussions also revolved around the prospect of charity registration. This step aims to broaden FOWA's outreach and magnify its potential to make a difference.
5. **School Webpage Update:** Recognising the importance of digital communication, plans were made to update the school webpage. This includes creating a dedicated space for FOWA updates, ensuring seamless information flow to all those involved.

As we continue on this journey, the next FOWA PTA meeting is scheduled for the **22nd of January, from 6 pm to 7 pm**, at the Watling Academy library. We extend a warm invitation to all parents interested to join us as we forge ahead in making a positive impact on our school community.

Your support and engagement are invaluable to the success of FOWA and Watling Academy. Together, let's build a community where every student thrives.

Fern Bunton, Chair of FOWA



NIFTYLIFT

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

On the 16th of November, 12 Year 8 students were invited to the Women in Engineering event at NiftyLift. Whilst on the school trip, the students went onto the factory floor where they had the opportunity to name pieces of equipment and why there are important to lift platforms.

The students then had the opportunity to meet NiftyLift's Marketing Team. Whilst with the Marketing Team, the students were given the opportunity to see what different countries provide the equipment for cherry pickers. The students were very good at identifying how the names of the machinery relate to aspects of different countries culture and names.

Cont.



Alyha, Ariel, Darcey, Eva, Felicity, Kadie, Matilda, Meya, Rosa, Shaye, Tifeni.

NIFTYLIFT

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

The students then spent time with the Design Team, where they used CAD to design their own cage for a cherry picker. As part of their time with the Design Team they had the opportunity to see how a 3D printer works and were given memorabilia from NiftyLift.

Later students had to the opportunity to relace wheels on the machines, look at how a production line works and also use hands-on experience of loosening and tightening screws and bolts on other aspects of the cherry pickers.

At the end of the day the students were given a tour of the factory and were shown how the cherry pickers were made and got the opportunity to be raised into the air to ride a cherry picker. The students were incredibly brave and were raised to 25 meters in the air seeing the sights of Milton Keynes and given an experience they would never forget.

Each student who attended the trip was a credit to Watling Academy and were given positive feedback throughout the day with regards to their engagement, behaviour and how well they represented Watling Academy.

Well done to all who attended.

Mr Simmonds



SPORTING FIXTURES

It has been a stellar term of fixtures at Watling this year with a range of fixtures from badminton to basketball and from netball to football, with friendly matches and tournaments also being played to showcase the incredible sporting talent here at Watling Academy.

The success of afterschool clubs has translated into great successes on the field and court, as seen in the recent fixture results. It is not just about the results, with more and more students representing the school.



SPORTING FIXTURES

Throughout this term, there has been an impressive 43 fixtures played to a competitive standard with a lot of success and learning curves. There have been an additional 15 tournaments ranging from basketball to futsal, allowing our students to develop their leadership, confidence, and team working skills. There have been 2 cross country events, where our runners have had a chance to shine and represented the school superbly. There were also 9 County cup fixtures for our Year 8, Year 9 and U13 girls' teams where they were tested by teams from across Buckinghamshire but succeeded because of their hard work, teamwork and resilience.

The respect, responsibility and kindness shown throughout these fixtures, whether a win, lose or draw, is testament to the students' maturity and character.

Miss Young



Y9 Boys Basketball

Dylan, Mahmoud, Aaron, Nathan, Abiola, Kabir & Benjamin.



U16 Girls Badminton:

Zezi, Jeneffa, Sophie & Ella

WINTER TERM CROSS-COUNTRY

This term we have seen two Cross-Country events take place where Watling students represented our school with resilience and pride. We have some very talented students at longer distance running and their abilities were recognised.

Firstly, in the MK schools Cross-Country event we took 41 students across 6 races. The Year 7 race saw the girls run first and **Nicole** in Year 7 came 1st out of almost 100 runners. The Year 8 and 9 team had 4 students place in the top 5 in both the girls and boys races: 4th **Skye**, 5th **Evie** in the girls and 4th **Isaac** and 5th **Ben** in the boys. In the Senior race (Yr 10 and 11) **Olivia** came 3rd and **Sofia** came 5th after a gruelling 4km run.

Overall, as a school, we came 2nd out of 16 MK Secondary Schools for Cross- Country an amazing achievement.

Cont.



Year 7 Boys: **Jacob, Ry, Leon, Callan, Owen, Jasper, Archie, Sammy**

First Watling Boy back - **Sammy**



Year 7 Girls: **Rose, Emily, Nicole, Florence, Ayishah, Karina, Ffion, Riyan**

1st Place: **Nicole**

WINTER TERM CROSS-COUNTRY

We also entered the Thornton Trail for the first time this year which was an independent schools competition for Y7 and Y8 girls only. We entered 2 teams consisting of 8 girls and all 8 of them placed in the top 16 runners. **Nicole** came 1st, **Skye** 2nd, **Shaye** 4th and **Karina** 6th. **Nicole** also got the course record for the 2km run.

This is a fantastic achievement and we are looking forward to the County Cross-Country Championships in 2024.

Miss Willison



Year 8/9 Girls: **Evie, Emily, Nyah, May-lou, Janice, Skye**

4th: **Skye**
5th: **Evie**



Year 8/9 Boys: **Isaac, Ben, Noah, Ernesto, Eli, Max, Bradley, Zak**

4th: **Isaac**
5th: **Ben**



Year 10 Boys: **Johnny, Colby, Cavin, Milo**

First Watling Boy back - **Milo**



Year 10 Girls: **Princess, Lily, Olivia, Sofia**

3rd: **Olivia** & 5th: **Sofia**

A VISIT FROM UK ANTI-DOPING

Year 10 GCSE PE and sport studies students were given a presentation by Amanda Brook from UKAD – UK anti-doping. This is the national governing body responsible for creating a UK wide environment of confidence in clean sport.

Amanda discussed basic 'drugs' that you would take for a common cold as we looked into ingredients and discussed whether or not an athlete would be ok to take these 'over the counter' tablets or whether the ingredients would create a ban in their sport for taking something that is on the banned substance list.

Students were shown an app that can be downloaded which has all of the 'banned' substances on, a discussion was had on how athletes have full ownership on what they put into their bodies.

Amanda demonstrated how an athlete would be drug tested and the procedure on how samples are taken and what happens to the samples when taken to the laboratory for testing.

A very informative and interesting visit!

Miss Passfield



www.ukad.org.uk

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL

In the lead up to the end of term, the PE department invited in A1 Multisports to take over our PE lessons for 3 days. Students were taught the importance of inclusion through taking part in wheelchair basketball. They were taught the rules of the sport and transferred the skills they already had to wheelchair version of the sport. The PE department was very impressed with the enthusiasm and motivation of our students taking part. Coach Kane from A1 Multisports even brought his UV lights, and the students played a glow in the dark version! We are planning to repeat this annually so that all students have this wonderful experience.

Miss Willison



ART STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS AUTUMN TERM – SEPTEMBER

Art Students of the Month—September



Year 7 — **Zeynep**



Year 8 — **Sophie**



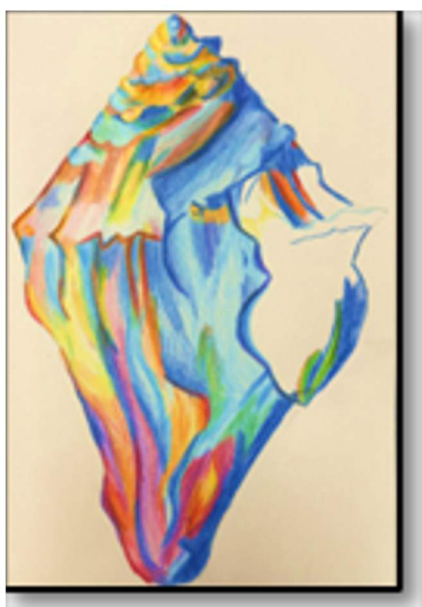
Year 9 — **Rose**



Year 10 — **Suzan**

ART STUDENT OF THE MONTH AWARDS AUTUMN TERM – OCTOBER

Art Students of the Month— October



ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEE

During the first term all students in Years' 8 and 9 have been practising translating a series of key present tense sentences into Spanish as part of their preparation for the Foreign Language Translation Bee House Competition. The competition itself took place in their Spanish lessons during the week beginning Monday 4th December 2023. Students had to correctly translate as many of the present tense sentences as possible in a minute. Two winners from each House in each year group (one from K and one from M) were then selected to take part in the next stage, which is a School Competition that will take place shortly after February half-term. The winners of the School Competition will potentially then compete in a regional/national competition. The winners will be announced in the forthcoming celebration assembly.

This competition really helps students with their knowledge of forming important sentences using key verbs and vocabulary. This ultimately helps them in their assessments and learning in general. Well done to everyone in Year 8 and Year 9 for taking part and good luck to those of you who qualified for the next stage!

Below are the winners of the House Competition which includes the number of sentences translated into Spanish in a minute.

Mr Scott

Year 9M	Student
Laine	Zaina, Emily, Liesl (13.5)
Leyh	Daniel, Delishaa (13)
Marshall	Charlotte (15)
Rutherford	Nihaal (11)
Turing	Aadil (14.5)

Year 9K	Student
Laine	Marley (16)
Leyh	Lucie (11.5)
Marshall	Matys (13)
Rutherford	Elackian (13)
Turing	Aaron (9)

Year 8M	Student
Laine	Olivia (8)
Leyh	Sanaya (7.5)
Marshall	Skye (11.5)
Rutherford	Seher (7)
Turing	Emma, Alessia (8.5)

Year 8K	Student
Laine	Anas (11)
Leyh	Evie (13)
Marshall	Daria (8)
Rutherford	Aria (15)
Turing	Adhla (10)



ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEE

During the first term all students have been practising translating and spelling in Spanish up to 50 new words as part of their preparation for the Foreign Language Spelling Bee House Competition. The competition itself took place in their Spanish lessons week commencing Monday 27th November. Students had to correctly translate into Spanish and spell as many of the 50 words as possible in a minute. The students with the highest scores were then selected to take part in the next stage, which is a School Competition that will take place during the final week of January. The winners of the School Competition will potentially then compete in a regional/national competition.

Below are the winners of the House Competition which includes the number of sentences translated into Spanish in a minute.

Year 7M	Student
Laine	Cora (15)
Leyh	Rinsola (13)
Marshall	Lilly, Zoya (9)
Rutherford	Aiden (10)
Turing	Yassir (9)

Year 7K	Student
Laine	Isaiah (15)
Leyh	Iza, Karmah (8)
Marshall	Any, Talia (8)
Rutherford	Eliza (17)
Turing	Venisha (17)

The total number of words correctly translated and spelt in a minute by all students in each House was:

- 5th – Marshall (205 words correctly translated and spelt in a minute)
- 4th – Rutherford (223)
- 3rd – Turing (255)
- 2nd – Laine (260)
- 1st – Leyh (279)**

To make the results fair, please note that total scores for Laine and Rutherford have been divided by 3 and multiplied by 2, as there are three tutor groups in each House.

Well done to everyone in Year 7 who took part. It is great to see everyone spelling words in Spanish using the Spanish alphabet. This will really help you with your learning in general.

Miss O'Dell



WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS



Diwali is known as the *Festival of Lights*, symbolising the triumph of good over evil, light over darkness and new beginnings. It marks the start of the Hindu New Year and is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains. This year Watling held a whole school celebration for Diwali with a variety of activities. Our theme was 'Beacon of light'.

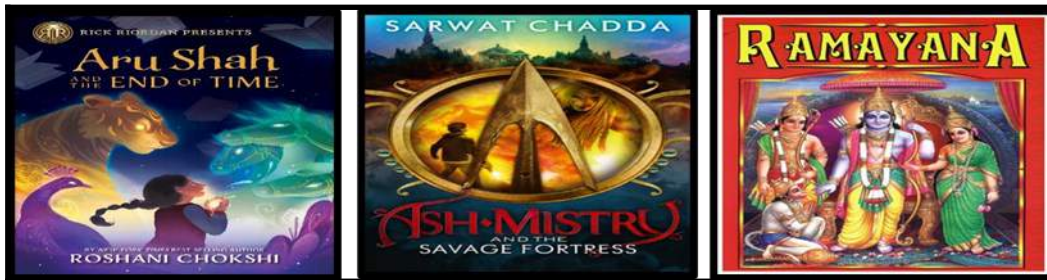
Here are some of the events held:

1. Whole school competition - Design a Diya lamp door competition.
2. Reading rules based on Hindu themed characters and Indian authors.
3. Tutorial on 'what is Diwali and how is it celebrated in the UK.
4. Afterschool Diwali event.

Winners from the design a Diya lamp competition:



WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS



Residents across India celebrate Diwali with festivities and dazzling lights.

NEW DELHI—Indians celebrated Diwali on Monday as bright earthen oil lamps and dazzling, colourful lights lit up homes and streets across the country to mark the Hindu festival that symbolizes the victory of light over darkness. Diwali, which is a national holiday across India, is typically celebrated by socializing and exchanging gifts with family and friends. Many light earthen oil lamps and candles, and fireworks are set off as part of the celebrations. In the evening, a special prayer is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Lakshmi, who is believed to bring luck and prosperity.

Ahead of the celebrations, cities and towns across the country were decked with colourful lights. Millions of Indians thronged crowded bazaars for shopping, brining back the Diwali cheer that was dampened during the last two years fur to coronavirus restrictions. The markets buzzed with eager shoppers buying flowers, lanterns and candles meant to decorate houses and offices.

As dusk fell on Sunday, over 1.5 million earthen lamps were lit and kept burning for 45 minutes at Ram ki Paidi, at the bands of Saryu River in the norther city of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, retaining the Guinness World Record it set last year.

Hindus believe that the deity Lord Rama was born in Ayodhya, where he returned after 14 years in exile. To celebrate his return, people light earthen lamps. The holy city was decked with fairy lights ahead of the event and a laser and fireworks show illuminated its lanes and river banks. Thousands of residents also lit lamps at their houses and temples across the city.

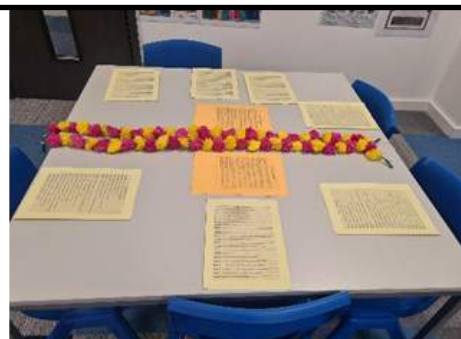
The library showcased a range of books with Indian and Hindu authors for students to access during Diwali



WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS



The RE department held an after school Diwali event with a range of activities from designing giant rangoli patterns, guess the artefact, quizzes and enjoying some Bollywood music.



WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS



Staff enjoyed some Indian sweets and treats celebrating the festival of Diwali.



Diwali After school event

Quiz winners

Kaavya B – 7MSOT

Olivia S – 8GKY

Aarush K – 8SBI

Sarani C – 7MCWT

All students received house points and prizes.



Happy Diwali from Watling Academy

Miss Bibi—Head of RE



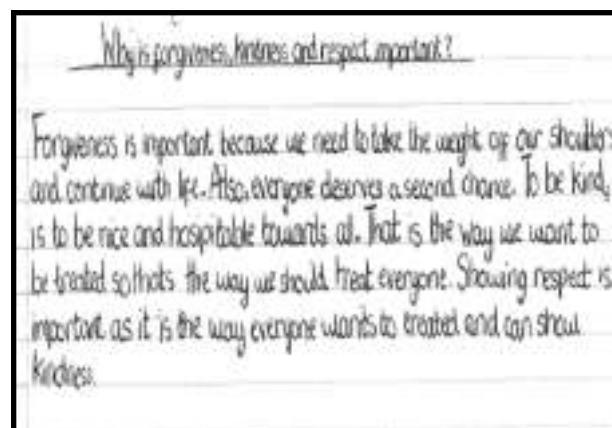
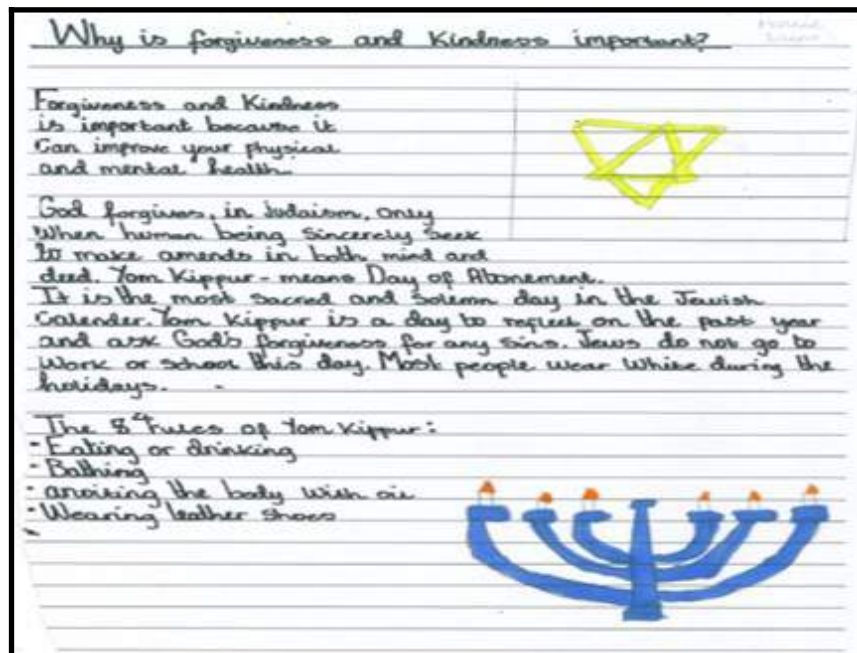
WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS



Yom Kippur -the day of Atonement – is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. It occurs annually on the 10th of Tishrei, corresponding to a date in late September or early October. It is observed with fasting, prayer, and reflection as a time for repentance and seeking forgiveness.

Here are some winning entries from LEYH and LAINE house competition winners:

Miss Bibi





WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS




Forgiveness, kindness and respect are things everyone should use in their daily lives because to forgive someone is sometimes a hard thing depending on what they have done, but not forgiving and holding a grudge puts a lot of weight on your shoulders. To forgive others to live a life of relief to others after their mistake. Kindness is a good part of you if you use it because even the smallest things such as holding the door for someone means the biggest things. Respect is showing no disrespect and expecting them get how they were treated.



Yom Kippur


What is Yom Kippur?
Yom Kippur is a Jewish holiday when they fast a day, fast, pray or school in September-October to gather at the synagogue. On this day they forgive any bad things they have done in the previous year and say to others themselves in the holy year. They tell their bad deeds to God in hope of forgiveness.

Shofar




This is a Shofar. It is used on Yom Kippur when it is over. It means anyone fasting can finally eat again. They fast for 25 hours.

A synagogue



This is the holy book Jewish people use, the Torah. They pray morning, afternoon and evening. These prayers include reading from the Torah.

Star of David



Law The reason why forgiveness, kindness and respect is important is because forgiveness. If you forgive someone that's showing that you have a kind heart and you are a nice caring person. ~~If you~~ It's good to show respect because if you don't respect someone they won't respect you back. It's good to show kindness because if you're not kind to someone, they won't be kind back or it might hurt their feeling. So it's important to show forgiveness, kindness and respect to others.

WATLING CELEBRATIONS AND FESTIVALS

Interfaith week runs every year and takes place from Sunday 12 - Sunday 19 November. Each year, Inter Faith week begins on Remembrance Sunday, and runs until the following Sunday. Remembrance Sunday was chosen as a start day to encourage people to remember together the contributions of all faiths and none, and to consider how best to create a just, peaceful, and harmonious world. The aim of interfaith week is to Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

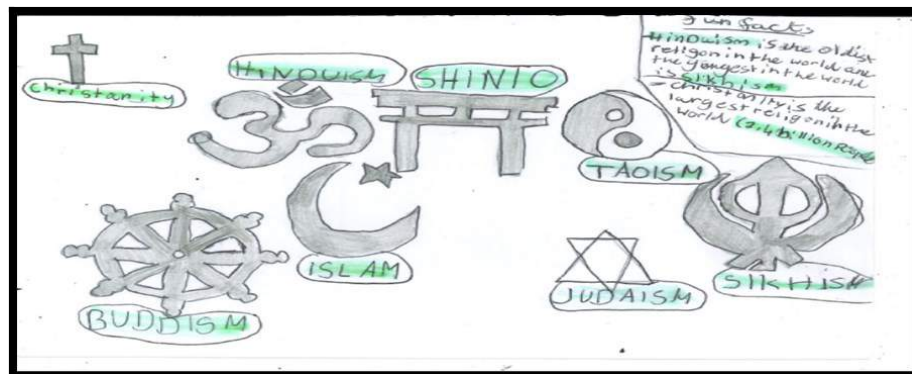
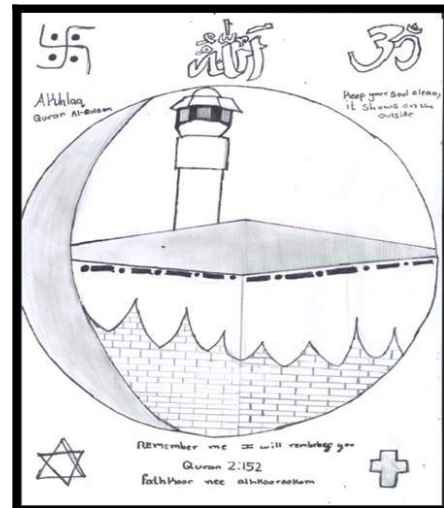
Here is this year's winner for the Art entries:

1st place – **Charley** 7kBEH

2nd place—**Mifnak** 7KBEH

3rd place—**Katie** 7KBEH

Miss Bibi

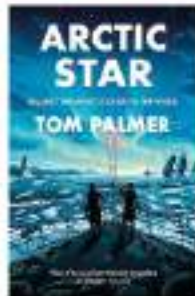


WATLING WINTER READS

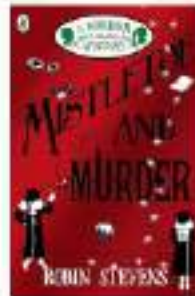
WATLING WINTER READS



A novella based on the characters from the acclaimed Heartstopper series.
Upper Years 14+



A thrilling naval adventure following three teenage naval recruits during a World War II arctic expedition.



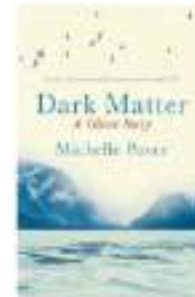
The festive fifth book in the Murder Most Unladylike series. It's Christmas in Cambridge, the snow is falling and there's a murder to solve.



The incredible often untold story of Matthew Henson's treacherous journey to the North Pole.
Dyslexia friendly format.



Prequel to The Hunger Games series. Coriolanus Snow is preparing for his one shot as a mentor in the Games. Can he outcharm and outwit his fellow students to mentor the winning tribute?



A terrifying 1930s ghost story set in the haunting wilderness of the far north. Jack has reached Gruhuken, where the sea will freeze making escape impossible. But Jack is not alone. Something walks there in the dark.

Library Insights

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE— WEEK COMMENCING 20TH MAY 2024

All of our Year 10 students will be taking part in work experience from Monday 20th May – Friday 24th May. This is an opportunity for our students to experience the world of work in a pre-arranged workplace. Students will attend their placement each day rather than attending school.

Work experience aims to give students a more realistic understanding of the demands and rewards of working in a professional environment, enabling them to develop confidence and employability skills, reinforcing the development of their learning habits that have been growing while at Watling Academy. It also gives them the chance to find out more about what it's like to work in a particular sector.

Year 10 students will find their own placement and in doing so :

- gain experience of looking for a placement, applying and possibly meeting an employer for an interview beforehand – useful experience in preparation for future roles.
- will have a greater level of ownership over their placement, and they will hopefully find a placement that is better tailored towards their interests and career aspirations.

Year 10 Work experience Launch

We will launch our Year 10 Work Experience with students when they return after the holidays. The launch will provide the information and guidance students need to help find a placement and well as ongoing support throughout the process.

Parents and Carers of Year 10 students should refer to the letter sent at the end of last term for further details on how you can support your child to find an amazing work placement. The deadline for students to find a placement is **Monday 15th April 2024**.

Mr Stormer



PERFORMING ARTS SHOWCASE

On the 14th of December, we were pleased to host our Winter Showcase, wherein we presented a comprehensive display of achievements spanning both curricular and extracurricular pursuits across the Art, Drama, Music, Design and Technology (DT), and Physical Education (PE) departments. The diligent efforts of our students, evident in their work during lessons and participation in extracurricular clubs, have yielded remarkable results.

In the realm of Art, the students showcased sophisticated Lino Prints from Year 10, complemented by exceptional entries from previously held competitions earlier in the term. The Fashion and Textiles club curated remarkable collections inspired by botanical and nautical themes. In the arena of Drama, students executed captivating pantomime and Christmas-themed performances, conceptualized entirely by their creative endeavours. Meanwhile, the Music department offered a diverse repertoire, spanning genres from Linkin Park to String Quartets. The PE department orchestrated an impressive performance featuring the Watling Academy Cheerleaders.

The showcased works collectively underscore the incredible range of talent and proficiency among our students, providing a testament to the diversity of skills fostered within our academic community.

Mr Moosajee



WATLING ACADEMY CELEBRATES FESTIVE CHEER WITH CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CAKE SALE

The festive spirit was in full swing at Watling as students and staff embraced the joy of Christmas Jumper Day. It was heartening to see everyone adorned in their festive knits, spreading cheer and coming together for a wonderful cause.

In addition, we held our Christmas meal during lunchtime, where the children enjoyed a delightful feast with their friends, adding to the festive atmosphere at school. Laughter and joy filled the air as students relished the special meal, creating memorable moments of togetherness.

The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the collective effort to raise funds for Save the Children Charity. It was fantastic to witness the whole school community actively participating in Christmas Jumper Day, contributing to this charitable cause. While we're still tallying up the final count of funds raised, we're excitedly anticipating a positive outcome. Watch this space for updates on the impact we've made together.

At the end of the school day, the Friends of Watling Academy (FOWA) took the festive celebrations a step further by organising a delightful cake sale. This event wouldn't have been possible without the generous contributions from those who donated cakes. A massive thank you to all who took the time and effort to make the cake sale a reality.

The response from our school community was overwhelming, and in a short span of time, FOWA managed to raise over £200 through the cake sale. This incredible achievement is a testament to the collective spirit of giving and support that defines our community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who participated, supported, and donated to make Christmas Jumper Day and the cake sale such a resounding success. Your generosity and involvement have undoubtedly made a positive impact, reflecting the true spirit of the festive season.

Wishing you all a joyful and warm holiday season!

Mr Parks



FOWA Cake Sale



WATLING ACADEMY'S HEARTFELT DRIVE FOR MK FOOD BANK: A TRIUMPH OF GENEROSITY

In the true spirit of giving, Watling Academy recently embarked on a heartwarming journey to support the MK Food Bank, and the results were nothing short of remarkable. The overwhelming generosity displayed by our school community has left an indelible mark on the hearts of those in need.

Witnessing the gratitude at MK Food Bank when we delivered the donations was an unforgettable experience. The team at the food bank was incredibly appreciative of our collective efforts, and it was evident that our contributions would make a meaningful impact.

Together, as a united Watling Academy community, we filled over 20 crates of essential items – a testament to the compassion and generosity that defines us. It was heartening to see students, parents, and staff come together for a common cause, demonstrating the power of community spirit.

Our food drive took on an exciting twist as it transformed into a house competition, adding an extra layer of enthusiasm and camaraderie. The competition was fierce, with each house putting forth an admirable effort. After a spirited competition, the final standings are as follows:

1. Turing
2. Leyh
3. Rutherford
4. Laine
5. Marshall



The closeness of the competition only magnifies the collective impact we've made. Every contribution, big or small, played a crucial role in this meaningful endeavour.

As we reflect on the success of our food bank drive, let us carry this spirit of generosity into the holiday season and beyond. Your selflessness has made a tangible difference in the lives of those who need it most.

A heartfelt thank you to each and every member of the Watling Academy community for your incredible support. Your kindness has not only filled crates with essential items but also hearts with hope.

Wishing you all a joyful and festive season,

Mr Parks



WATLING NOTICE BOARD

MAISIES SUPERSTORE —SUPPLIER OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please note that Maisies Superstore will be closed over the Christmas Period from Sunday 24th December 2023 to Monday 1st January 2024 inclusive. Maisies will reopen at 9am on Tuesday 2nd January 2024.

www.maisies-superstore.co.uk



IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

- End of term— Thu 21st Dec @ 3:15pm
- School reopens —Mon 8th Jan 2024
- Year 9 Options Evening—Thu 25th Jan @ 5:00pm to 7:30pm
- Y9 & Y10 Progress Reports out —Fri 2nd February
- Y9M Subject Consultation Evening—Thu 8th Feb @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- Y9K Subject Consultation Evening—Thu 15th Feb @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- End of half-term—Fri 16th Feb @3:15pm
- School reopens—Mon 26th Feb



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 of their absence**. 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.