

Newsletter

WORDS FROM MR BACON, HEADTEACHER

Dear Families

As the Easter break approaches, I once again reflect on a shorter but albeit very busy and fun packed half term.

As you will see from the following pages, there have been many activities for our students and staff to get involved in, including, planting trees at Middleton Meadows, fund raising events for Comic Relief and Children's Bereavement Awareness Week, House competitions and many trips including the National Museum of Computing, a visit to Silverstone for our Year 9 students, a theatre trip to watch Shrek the Musical, Spanish Translation Bee and our first Duke of Edinburgh Practice Day. We have celebrated National Book Week, National Science Week, Careers Week and had visits from a leading Chinese Author, Watling Primary School children and those attending our Children's University.

I am always happy to boast about our sporting achievements, but this year Watling Academy entered the Football County Cup for the first time in three age categories. Each of our teams did us proud, but particularly the Year 9 boys who reached the final! Many congratulations to all the students who took part and to all their supporters.

There are many fantastic achievements to celebrate from our students, not just sporting ones, from fashion design to STEM. Well done to everyone involved, but a huge thank you should go to all the staff who have arranged and helped with these and to you for supporting your children in participating.

It is always sad at the end of a term, to say some goodbyes, but I would like to thank Mrs Antoine (Maths), Mrs Wincent (Maths) and Mrs Dixon (Head of Year 8K) who will be leaving us for pastures new. Thank you to all of them for their hard work in teaching and supporting our students and we wish them all the very best in their new schools.

We will of course be welcoming new members of staff including Mr Say (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Mangan (Senior Head of Year), 4 teachers – Ms Williston (Maths), Ms Foster and Ms Edwards (English) and Mr Simms (DT), together with Miss Ali who will be joining our front office/reception team and look forward to them starting with us straight after the holidays.

I hope you enjoy reading all about what we have been up to since the last edition. Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming you back on Monday 15th April.

Ian Bacon, Headteacher



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- End of term— Thu 28th Mar @ 3:15pm
- School reopens —Mon 15th Apr
- Y7 Subject Consultation Evening— Thu 25th Apr @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- Y8 Subject Consultation Evening— Thu 2nd May @ 3:45pm to 8:00pm
- Bank Holiday - Academy closed—Mon 6th May
- End of half term—Fri 24th May



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

The goal of the Local School Board is to support and challenge Watling Academy in its mission to provide an exceptional educational experience. We'd like to thank the school's leadership team for all the time and effort they put into meeting with us and providing evidence and assurance about Watling's progress.

Since our last update the LSB has reviewed and approved several key policies to ensure that Watling Academy maintains high standards of education and welfare. The Behaviour Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy have been updated and approved, reflecting Watling's ongoing commitment to providing a nurturing and respectful environment for all members of our school community.

Additionally, we implemented minor amendments to the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy and the Student Attendance Policy, emphasising the school's focus on inclusivity and the importance of regular attendance. You can view and read all the school's policies online at watlingacademy.net/about/policies-statutory-information.

LSB members visit the school regularly too. Recent governor visits have covered crucial areas such as Safeguarding, Curriculum, SEND, and Pupil Premium, enabling direct engagement with staff and students and fostering a collaborative approach to addressing school priorities.

In particular, the Safeguarding visit highlighted the effective management of handling reports and reinforced the safety measures in place at Watling Academy. The Pupil Premium review focused on the use of funds to support eligible students, ensuring they have access to the necessary resources and opportunities.

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR OF GOVERNORS...

The LSB also oversees operational and strategic initiatives. We regularly review the school's budget and risk management strategies. If you come to school at the start and end of the day, you probably understand why the school needs a Traffic Management Plan - and this has been a focal point of recent meetings, addressing community concerns and enhancing safety measures for our students and staff. You will also have recently received a new survey about Road Safety via ParentMail - thank you to the many hundreds of you who have filled it in already.

The LSB also gets updates on the positive impact of our House Points and rewards system, which continues to motivate and engage students across all year groups. Congratulations to all the students who have already received their Gold, Silver and Bronze awards. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support and engagement with Watling Academy through helping the children everyday - but also through support with homework, sports fixtures, and drama rehearsals (we're looking forward to Bugsy Malone!)

Robert Simpson, on behalf of The Local School Board





STUDENT VOICE: CREATING SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

At Watling we value having an opportunity to shape school culture and collaborate on making changes to improve the experience for all. For this to happen, spaces for discussion need to exist.

Towards the end of the previous half-term, the House Council set out to test the 'temperature' at Watling Academy, as experienced by students. We asked House Representatives to engage with students in their Form to reflect on what they like at Watling, what they like but would want to adapt, and what they would like to change or add. Key themes emerged, which we shared with Mr Bacon.

A forum with Mr Bacon and House Representatives followed this feedback, further providing a platform for meaningful dialogue. Various topics were discussed, including our school uniform expectations, clarity on toilet usage during lessons, concerns about slushies and the impact they have on litter, a query about the number of and placement of bins on site, ideas for additional clubs, more student input on trip destinations, details on the setting of canteen prices, and the possibility of more non-uniform days. Mr Bacon assured us that the matters raised would be considered, but also explained to us that any amendments to school uniform would need to be reviewed and approved by the Local School Board of Governors (LSB).

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STUDENT VOICE: CREATING SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

It was decided that the House Council would do some work on finding out exactly what students would like to change, as well as the motivation for these suggestions. If support for these amendments to Uniform Policy was significant, then we would submit a proposal to the LSB for consideration. This prompted a whole-school survey primarily on two uniform aspects including, blazers vs jumpers. The data collected gave us great insight into what students felt most strongly about which guided us in what information to submit to the LSB for consideration. We thank the Governors for considering our wishes.

One of our goals as House Captains serving on the Council has been to improve student voice – we believe we are strengthening our school community through engagement. We thank all students who often share their thoughts and ideas with us so that we can try to be impactful and best serve the student body.

House Captains
(mentored by Mrs Dixon)





YOUTH COUNCIL

On the 4th March, Watling Academy students took part in the Milton Keynes Youth Council elections. This is the largest national consultation of young people. It is powered by the British Youth Council (BYC) and supported by local youth councils across Europe.

The ballot gives young people **aged 11–18** the opportunity to have their say on the biggest issues facing them today, to make change for their futures. The top national topic will become the youth parliament campaign for 2024 and the top two local issues will become the next MKYC campaigns for Milton Keynes.

After the votes were counted our students identified that Culture, Media and Sport as the topic that is most important to them, followed by Crime and Safety and Jobs the Economy and Benefits.

Mr Gibbs





CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY PROGRAMME

[Children's University](#) is a charity that works in partnership with schools to develop a love of learning in children. The aim of the programme is to develop a passion for life-long learning, to increase confidence and attainment. Watling is proud to partner with the Children's University to provide extra-curricular activities for Year 5 students from our two feeder schools; Whitehouse Primary School and Fairfield Primary School.

Watling Academy has supported the Children's University in previous academic years and is currently running a 8-week programme for 90 students to develop their love of learning across a variety of subjects.

See below for more details of the subjects offered.

- Art—to create an oil pastel transfer print using harmonious colours.
- Computing—to programme Micro-bit computers.
- Food Technology—to make top toasties.
- Maths— Looked at Pascal Triangles and found different sequences within it.
- Science— explored the seven nutrient groups and carrying out an investigation to test several foods for one of the nutrient groups.
- Spanish—leant some basic conversational Spanish and completed a quiz.
- STEM—created holographical projectors.
- Textiles—Weaving using yarn to make a circular plate loom.

Mr Bartlam





HOUSE UPDATES

Supporting Children's Bereavement Week

Despite the short half term, the Watling House System has been bustling with activity. During Children's Bereavement Week, our school community came together to honour the memory of lost loved ones while supporting those in need. Supporting the Marshall House Charity Harry's Rainbow, students and staff embarked on a compassionate journey to raise awareness and funds for this noble cause. Throughout the weeklong commemoration, our school aimed to create meaningful activities to raise awareness on the challenges faced by bereaved children and their families; the students created a vibrant display representing everything that Harry's Rainbow means to them. We raised donations for the house charity throughout Children's Bereavement Week, and as the week drew to a close, the generosity from our school community was nothing short of remarkable. Together, we raised an astounding £244, a testament to the kindness and compassion that thrives within our school community. We can make a difference, one rainbow of hope at a time.

Green Initiative: Planting Trees at Middleton Meadows

Led by Mrs. Hollingsworth, a group of students embarked on a meaningful trip to Parks Trust, where they planted a remarkable 85 trees at the new site in Middleton Meadows. This initiative is part of a collaborative effort with Community Trees MK, aimed at enhancing green spaces and preserving wildlife in our expanding city. Our representatives from Leyh House showcased exemplary behaviour during the tree-planting project. Their respect and responsibility greatly impressed the Parks Trust workers, who have extended an invitation for our students to participate in future endeavours.

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HOUSE UPDATES

House Competitions and Achievements

In other news, the recent World Book Day was celebrated vibrantly at Watling. The library hosted a 'Decorate Your Door' competition, and we're delighted to announce that 7BEN from Laine House emerged as the champions. Congratulations to Laine House for earning a well-deserved 200 House Point prize!

Looking ahead, the anticipation for the Summer Term Sports Day is palpable. Which house will triumph and lift the coveted cup in July? Will it be Turning, Laine, Leyh, Rutherford, or Marshall? Stay tuned for updates and let the spirit of healthy competition inspire us all!

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



BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



To mark British Science week 2024, Watling Academy hosted its annual science fair for our Year 7 cohort.

As part of the activities, the students were invited to a range of activities in the science department. Students were able to witness a heart dissection in the biology room as well as methane bubbles and elephants toothpaste demonstrations in the chemistry room.

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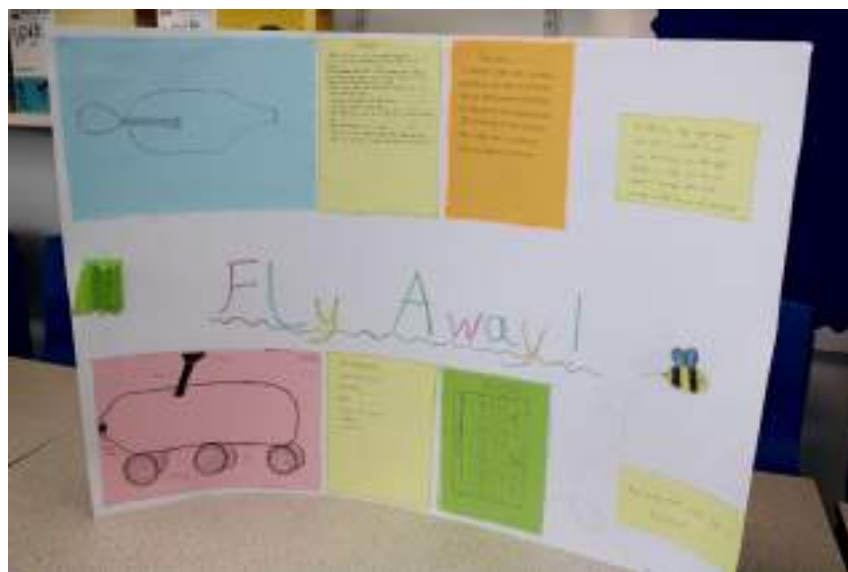


BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

They were given the opportunity to participate in experiments including pop rockets in the physics room and chromatography in our CSI room.



As part of the year 7 STEM curriculum, students had been planning and carrying out different investigations in the first half of the Spring term. They produced some fantastic board presentations and the best work was voted for and presented at the science fair by our winning year 7 STEM students.



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BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK



A selection of Duke of Edinburgh participants, house representatives and triple science students in year 10 were magnificent in demonstrating different activities and guiding students on the day, upholding the Watling core values of respect, responsibility and kindness and being excellent role models within the school.

The Year 7 students engaged brilliantly with the demonstrations and activities enjoying their time at the science fair and entering the house competition. We had over 100 complete entries and the house with the most entries for this competition was Laine, well done to all who participated!

Miss Dennis and Mrs Combs



WATLING ACADEMY TEACHER RUNNING THE GREAT NORTHERN RUN FOR CHARITY

Amongst the runners preparing for the renowned Great Northern Run will be a teacher from Watling Academy, who is gearing up for more than just a personal challenge. Mr Green is set to take on this half marathon in a bid to raise funds for charity.

The Great Northern Run is no small feat, yet Mr Green sees it as an opportunity to combine his new passion for running with a commitment to making a positive difference.

The funds raised will directly support the **Army Cadet Charitable Trust UK** which a national youth charity dedicated to improving the lives of young people through access to Army Cadets. Mr Green is an Army Cadet Instructor and runs the local Cadets Club which meets on Tuesday at Denbigh School.

On the day, as Mr Green laces up his running shoes and prepares to join thousands of participants, he is hoping to complete the run in 5 hours.

To learn more about Mr Green's journey or to show your support by making a donation, go to [Mr Green's donation page](#).

Mr Green



A RED NOSE DAY TO REMEMBER AT WATLING ACADEMY!

As the dust settles on a whirlwind week of laughter, creativity, and community spirit, we're thrilled to report that Watling Academy's Comic Relief activities were a resounding success! During the week beginning 11th March, our school was awash with enthusiasm and participation from students and staff alike, all in the name of a very worthy cause.

From the outset, the excitement was palpable, with red noses flying off the shelves and selling out within just two days! The commitment to Comic Relief was clear to see, setting the stage for a week of fun-filled activities.

This year's Crazy Hair Day took a humorous twist, offering students the unique chance to vote for a teacher to model a wild and wacky hairstyle. The results? A sight to behold and a testament to the good humour and supportiveness of our staff.

Our Comedy Club Session and Photoshop Challenge had everyone in stitches, proving once again that laughter truly is the best medicine. Meanwhile, the Sponge the Teacher event provided some light-hearted 'revenge' for our students, all in the spirit of fun and charity.

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A RED NOSE DAY TO REMEMBER AT WATLING ACADEMY!

Not to be outdone, the strategic minds among us took to the chessboards. Our Chess Competition saw staff and students pitting their wits against each other, showcasing the brilliant strategic thinking within our community across all year groups.

Our Non-Uniform Day brought out the individuality and style of our students, adding a colourful flair to the school atmosphere. Additionally, the MFL department's Spanish Film Showing offered a cultural dive that enriched our understanding and appreciation of the diversity within our school community.

The generosity of the Watling community was in full display as we raised over **£1,000** in donations! We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and contributed to making this Comic Relief a fantastic success. Your efforts have made a significant impact, supporting a cause that makes a real difference in the lives of many.

As we look back on this remarkable week, it's clear that the spirit of giving, fun, and community is alive and well at Watling Academy. Here's to making a difference together – thank you for your incredible support and enthusiasm!

Mr Parks



Consultation Evening

YEAR 10 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING

We are delighted to share with our Watling Academy community the outstanding success of our recent Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening. This event marked a significant milestone for our students as they embarked on their first formal discussions concerning their GCSE subjects, setting the stage for their future academic endeavours.

The evening provided a unique opportunity for parents and guardians to engage directly with GCSE teachers, delving into the progress of their children and exploring avenues for future success. The discussions were not just informative but also deeply inspiring, reflecting the collective ambition of our students and their families.

Students, parents, and guardians came together in a shared journey of educational exploration, demonstrating the strong partnership between our school and the families we serve. It was a vivid reminder of the vital role that collaboration plays in shaping the academic and personal growth of our students.

Thank you to all families for attending and engaging with these crucial meetings.

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YEAR 10 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING

As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the upcoming subject consultation evenings for Years 7 and 8, scheduled later in the year. These sessions are invaluable touchpoints in our academic calendar, offering further opportunities for meaningful engagement between teachers, students, and their families.

Your continued support is especially crucial during these formative years of your children's academic journey. Together, we can foster an environment that not only celebrates their current achievements but also paves the way for future success.

We extend our thanks to all who joined us for the Year 10 Subject Consultation Evening. Your involvement and dedication to the educational journey of our students are greatly appreciated. It is through this collective effort that we continue to build a strong, supportive, and successful academic community at Watling Academy.

Thank you once again for your support and commitment. We look forward to continuing this journey together, championing the aspirations and achievements of all our students.

Mr Parks



Technognition Day

TECHOGNITION DAY



The 8th of March was this year's day of #TECHOGNITION – a day that aims to celebrate and highlight the vital, and sometimes misunderstood role of Technicians within Schools and Colleges across the UK.

My name is Mr Bailey, and I am currently Senior Art & Design Technology Technician at Watling Academy. Miss King and I make up the Art and DT technician team. I would like to give you a brief description on what a DT technician does at a large Secondary School.

The role has many varied aspects and responsibilities, it's something that differs from school to school, but the bigger the school the more varied it tends to be. In simple terms, technicians, are tasked to take care of the day to day running of a DT department, allowing teaching staff to concentrate fully on teaching students and the delivery of the curriculum set by the Department for Education.

Technicians are facilitators and essential to the effective operation of any good DT department. The DfE DT curriculum for KS3 and GCSE reflects established practices as well as recent technological developments in industry. It's no longer just about doing 'woodwork', modern DT encompasses many different, but overlapping, areas of study. The breadth of the subject spreads across human history from before the Palaeolithic era (when I was at school) during which stone tools were commonly made, to the latest technological advances in design and manufacturing, including computer-aided design (CAD) and computer-aided manufacturing (CAM). Because technicians are called upon to work across diverse areas of study, we develop unique, and broad, skill sets.

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TECHOGNITION DAY



As well as offering support to teachers in practical lessons, technicians maintain inventories of stock and equipment, order and prepare materials and help develop new and existing projects.

We offer technical advice to staff and instruct students on the correct use of tools and equipment. As a Senior technician I also monitor activities and equipment across the department and refer to legislation to advise the school on compliance. This is all done to keep students and staff as safe as possible when in DT and Art at Watling, something that we take very seriously.

Mr Bailey

A composite image featuring a large blue poster on the left and a photograph of a technician on the right. The poster has the Watling Academy logo at the top, followed by "#TECHOGNITION DAY" in large white letters and "8th MARCH 2024" in large blue letters. Below this, it reads "A national celebration of technical support staff, recognising the importance of their essential roles in school and college education." and includes the website "www.techognition.org". The background of the poster is decorated with faint blue chemical diagrams. The photograph on the right shows a female technician with red hair, wearing safety glasses and a white lab coat, working with a red piece of laboratory equipment.

Silverstone Trip

EXCITING ADVENTURES AT SILVERSTONE YEAR 9'S THRILLING TRIP

Our Year 9 students recently embarked on a trip to the iconic Silverstone Circuit, marking an unforgettable experience filled with adrenaline and learning. The excursion provided an opportunity for our students to delve into the world of motorsports, gaining insights into the technology, history, and sheer thrill behind one of Britain's most renowned racing venues.

Guided by seasoned experts and instructors, students got the opportunity to immerse themselves in a variety of activities tailored to ignite their passion for motorsports and delve into the vast array of career opportunities catered around F1.

We were lucky enough to visit Silverstone on a test day, meaning students had the chance to witness the cars being raced around the circuit, which was undoubtedly a highlight of the visit.



Beyond the thrill of the track, the trip also provided valuable educational insights. Bespoke workshops offered a behind-the-scenes look at the intricate designs and materials used to make some of the world's top race cars.



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EXCITING ADVENTURES AT SILVERSTONE YEAR 9'S THRILLING TRIP

Further to this, students were able to get hands on within the Silverstone Museum which provided an insight into the history of the Silverstone site and allowed students to immerse themselves into a variety of exciting educational activities.



The year 9's were a credit to themselves and Watling Academy, with all students upholding the school's values of respect, responsibility and kindness throughout the entirety of the visit to Silverstone. Well done Year 9!

Mrs Harper



Duke of Edinburgh

YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE DAY

I am pleased to say how successful the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh practice day was that the students completed on Tuesday 19th March.

The students have been attending weekly sessions to learn more about the expedition aspect of the award and have been trained in using Trangia's, basic map skills and nutrition. The aim of the practice day was to build on what the students had learnt and to prepare for their expedition in April.

In one half of the day, the students completed a 3-4 hour walk through the countryside west of Watling Academy. This turned out to be both very muddy and a more challenging navigation than anticipated but the students took it in turns to navigate using maps and compasses and were successful in this.

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YEAR 10 DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE DAY

On-site for the other half of the day, students learnt basic first aid, plotted their routes for their expedition and practiced putting up tents in their groups.

The instructors said that the students were very enthusiastic and worked hard during the day, as well as supporting each other well in their groups. The students upheld the schools values and were a credit to us.

The students have come away well-equipped for their expedition and we look forward to seeing them accomplish this section of their award next month .

Mrs Combs



DIGITAL FUTURE DAYS: TEEN TECH WEEK

On Thursday 7th March, 15 Year 9 Boys went to [The National Museum of Computing](#) (TNMOC) as part of Digital Future Days: Teen Tech Week. The day comprises a series of hands-on workshops and attended inspiring talks by industry leaders.

We began with Codename Cipher where students journeyed back to the 1940s to unravel the mysteries of cyber security and develop an in-depth understanding of the legendary Enigma machine's origin and data representation. The students deciphered World War II messages sent in Morse code. This was a captivating blend of history, technology and problem-solving.

Next students moved on to the VR Experience which provided an immersive experience to solve a Virtual Reality puzzle game which provided the opportunity to work collaboratively putting into practice their critical thinking and computational skills. Students really enjoyed this activity.

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DIGITAL FUTURE DAYS: TEEN TECH WEEK

The RAF STEM Team combined gyroscopic robot calls, coding and creativity in an interactive adventure. Students guided robots through the physical work and developed their coding skills.

Students attended two fascinating talks: Robotics and AI and Cyber Champions. The Robotics and AI talk explored the interplay between technological innovations and science fiction and delved into Artificial Intelligence (AI). The talk considered the ethics of self-driving cars and the impact of ChatGPT. Cyber Champions, a not for profit organisation, promotes awareness of digital and cyber skills. Students heard about the drive to form collaborative partnerships to create a better-connected society and to develop cyber safety practices.

Students thoroughly enjoyed their day out at The National Museum of Computing and came away with an increased knowledge of the history and future of computing sciences and had the opportunity to develop their problem solving and critical thinking skills.

Mr Bartlam



Students attended two fascinating talks: Robotics and AI and Cyber Champions. The Robotics and AI talk explored the interplay between technological innovations and science fiction and delved into Artificial Intelligence (AI). The talk considered the ethics of self-driving cars and the impact of ChatGPT. Cyber Champions, a not for profit organisation, promotes awareness of digital and cyber skills. Students heard about the drive to form collaborative partnerships to create a better-connected society and to develop cyber safety practices.

Mr Bartlam



BOOK WEEK AT WATLING

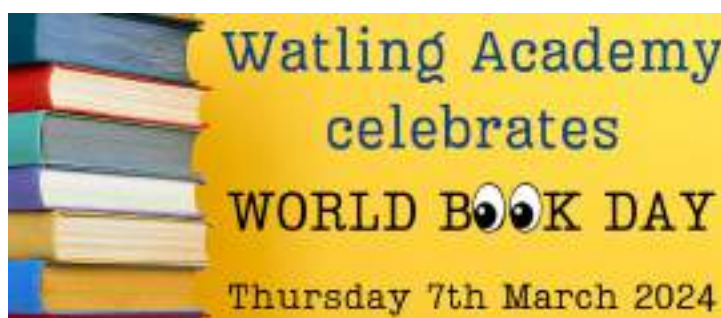
Thursday 7th March marked World Book Day – a day created by the National Literacy Trust to promote a love of reading and ensure that every child has access to a book. Here at Watling Academy, we love to promote all aspects of reading, and understand how essential it is for both academic success but also wider life skills.

To celebrate, we ran a World Book Week- with a variety of activities for students to get involved in. Tutors were invited to pick a book or author and decorate their doors in the style of that text, we had a great range of books represented from Percy Jackson, The Hunger Games, The Good Girls Guide to Murder, to Diary of a Wimpy Kid and even the Very Hungry Caterpillar made an appearance. The school looked fabulous, and it was good to see reading represented in such a positive and colourful way. 7KBEN won the competition and earned 100 House points towards their total and a sweet breakfast treat.

Leading up to Book Week, we gave the students the opportunity to take part in a Book Swap – they could bring up to 3 books from home and exchange them on Book Day for other books that had been donated, ensuring that students have a range of books to read and that old books gets passed on to others who may enjoy them. We had a wonderful uptake with the swap and students went away with some amazing new titles to enjoy.

On World Book Day the library ran a host of events including a Literary Tea Party- on a table were clues towards 6 mystery guests, students had to identify the clues and work out who would be attending the tea party. Some were very easy to spot whilst others took some working out, but it all went 'practically perfect in every way'! Students who entered were awarded House Points for taking part.

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BOOK WEEK AT WATLING

There was also the opportunity for students to receive a £1 Book token and exchange it for a special edition book that is printed each year by the National Literacy Trust – they had a range of 8 titles to choose from. If your child still has a book token, you can take it to your local Waterstones and either exchange it for one of the special titles that will cost you nothing, or you can use it as £1 off the total of any other book.

We also did tutorials during form time all about reading for pleasure and what World Book Day is, along with some book emoji quizzes that tutor groups could enter their scores to win house points.

Even though World Book Day is over for another year, we will continue to promote reading throughout the school, and the library is available for students during break and lunch times throughout the week. Every student should have a reading book in their bags as part of their equipment – if they do not currently have one we encourage you to visit the school library to select one, if students are stuck for what to choose our Librarian will be happy to help.

Mrs Betteridge

Year 9M door



Year 7M door



Year 7K winning door



SHREK THE MUSICAL

In the first week of this half term, 65 of our students attended an evening production of *Shrek the Musical* at Milton Keynes Theatre on 28th February.

We are very proud of how the students represented Watling Academy by impeccably showing their respect, responsibility, and kindness to members of the public, their peers, the coach driver, and members of staff who attended the trip.

It was a wonderful trip where the students enjoyed clapping and dancing along to the songs and watching the performers intently. All the students who embarked on the trip expressed how much they enjoyed the show.

A special thank you from the Drama Department and Music Department to these students who continually support performing arts by attending drama and music clubs and for being involved in extracurricular activities.

Mrs Brooks



FORTHCOMING WHOLE OF SCHOOL PRODUCTION



YOUNG TALENT OF TOMORROW

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION

Congratulations to the students below who have created amazing design work to enter the UK 'Young Talent of Tomorrow Fashion Design Competition' supporting Graduate Fashion Week and Foundation.

Emma B — Year 8M

Emma M — Year 8K

Meya — Year 8K

Sarah — Year 9K

Laila-Jane Year 9K

I have been blown away by the level of creativity and dedication these budding designers (named below) have shown. The entries have been submitted and I want to celebrate their outstanding work with you all.

The brief was to produce a fashion collection based on their identity and had to include research, illustrations, fabric samples, colour swatches and technical drawings as well as written elements to fully explain their collection.

Please see the following pages for some examples

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#GFFYoungTalentofTomorrow

www.graduatefashionweek.com

www.graduatefashionfoundation.com

YOUNG TALENT OF TOMORROW

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION



YOUNG TALENT OF TOMORROW

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION



YOUNG TALENT OF TOMORROW

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION



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FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION



YOUNG TALENT OF TOMORROW

FASHION DESIGN COMPETITION



LIBRARY INSIGHTS

World Book Week Cake Sale

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the student Reading Advocate cake sale during World Book Week. We raised a fantastic £263.50 to buy some new books to add to the Library collection. Our Reading Advocates have met this week to look at new book releases and discuss which books most students would be most excited to see on the shelves.

Watling Primary School Visit

Last week, the whole of Watling Primary School came to visit our school Library. A group of our Reading Advocates teamed up with the primary school students to complete a Library treasure hunt, a picture puzzle activity and chose some of their favourite books to read together. It was the very first school trip for some of the Reception students and we were so impressed by how well our students engaged and enthused the younger students with their reading. It was a positive experience all round and one we look forward to repeating!

Miss Williams



COUNTY CUP FOOTBALL SUCCESS

This year is the first year that Watling Academy has entered the Football County Cup in three age categories. This competition is held across the whole of Buckinghamshire with all secondary schools being able to enter. We are very proud to report that our Year 8 Boys Football Team made it through to the Quarter Final beating Buckingham School, Prince Risborough and then losing out to Walton High who went onto the final. Our U13 Girls Football Team finished top of their group with wins against Sir Herbert Leon, Shenley Brook End, Cottesloe and Chiltern Hills Academy. They then narrowly lost their quarter final.

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Year 8 Boys County Cup Football Team



U13 Girls County Cup Football Team

COUNTY CUP FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Our Year 9 Boys Football Team managed to progress all the way to the Final of the competition with wins in the previous rounds against The Grange, Sir Henry Floyd, Cottesloe and Amersham. The final against Thorpe House was held at Arbour Park Stadium where the boys played in front of a crowd of spectators. It was a very intense and competitive game which the boys unfortunately lost; however, they represented the school impeccably. We are looking forward to entering again next year.

Miss Willison



Y9 Boys Football Team— County Cup Final



Y9 Boys Football Team— County Cup Final



Y9 Boys Football Team—Semi Final

SPORTS FIXTURES

This half term has seen the conclusion of our winter leagues. All our teams have worked very hard, and we have had a number of teams winning their matches and advancing to the league finals including Year 7,8 and U15 Girls' Football Teams and the Y9 Basketball Team. To get to the league finals itself is a great achievement. The finals will be played after the Easter break and we look to bring home plenty of trophies.

This half term has seen each Year group compete in a Netball tournament alongside 14 other schools. Our best result came from the Year 7 Netball Team who came second after unfortunately falling just short on the final! Congratulations to them!

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Year 7 Girls Netball Team

SPORTS FIXTURES

Watling has also hosted girls and boys indoor cricket participation tournaments to allow the opportunity for our keen cricketers to get involved before the summer season starts. These were a great success with places in high demand.

Next term, the PE department's summer clubs offer and leagues will include different sporting opportunities such as tennis and rounders tournaments, and we look forward to seeing the next Andy Murray or Emma Raducanu!!

Miss Young



Year 9 Girls Cricket Team

ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION BEE

The following Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in Stage 2 of the Spanish Translation Bee this term:

Year 8

Evie – Leyh
Daria – Marshall
Aria – Rutherford
Olivia – Laine
Alessia – Turing

Year 9

Marley – Laine
Matys – Marshall
Aadil – Turing
Elackian – Rutherford
Aaron – Turing
Daniel – Leyh
Delishaa – Leyh
Nihaal – Rutherford
Zaina – Laine

Students had to correctly translate into Spanish as many of the present tense and immediate future tense sentences as possible in a minute. This took place during their respective assemblies in front of the rest of their year group. For the students taking part, as well as demonstrating their impressive ability to translate sentences into Spanish, it was a great opportunity for them to improve their confidence speaking in front of a large audience. For those watching, it was fantastic to witness what can be achieved through hard work and perseverance. Well done to all those who took part.

The two winners of the competition are:

Nihaal – Rutherford
Zaina – Laine

Whilst both of the winners are from Year 9, the current Year 8 students will have another opportunity next year. The winners of the School Competition will now compete in a regional final against other schools in the Southeast of England. If they are successful, they may then compete in a National Final. Please wish them luck if you see them.

Mr Williams



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT: WATLING ACADEMY'S ENCOUNTER WITH RENOWNED CHINESE WRITER LU MIN

On 18th March, as part of the cultural exchange program hosted by Oxford Brookes University, Watling Academy welcomed a well-known Chinese writer, [Lu Min](#), to share Chinese literature and traditional art with students. Lu Min introduced Chinese traditional opera art—[Kunqu](#)—to Y10 Mandarin students. She elaborated on the five main roles in Kunqu opera: "Sheng, Dan, Jing, Mo, Chou", along with the corresponding costumes and personalities of each role. Students showed great interest in the connection between colours and personalities in traditional art, actively participating in discussions. They also learned that different colours are embedded with different meanings in various cultural contexts.

Furthermore, Lu Min delivered an engaging session to Year 7 MEP students, delving into the Chinese idiom story "[The Old Man Lost His Horse](#)", illustrating traditional Chinese philosophical views: neither good nor bad events are absolute, as a seemingly negative event may ultimately lead to positive outcomes. She encouraged students to maintain optimism and resilience in the face of challenges.

The sharing sessions hosted by Lu Min not only enriched students' understanding of Chinese culture but also fostered a spirit of open-mindedness, empathy, and cultural appreciation. It encouraged students to develop a global mindset and navigate an increasingly interconnected world with wisdom and understanding.

Miss Zhao



A MESSAGE FROM THAMES VALLEY POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM



For the past 4 months, we have been carrying out patrols at the start and end of the school day to monitor parking.

We have seen a number of cars parking on pavements, in bus lanes and double-parking and over the last four months have spoken with many drivers about the manner of their parking to advise that this is not acceptable. However, we are still seeing these issues..

We understand that Barrosa Way is a difficult road, constantly busy and not yet complete as the building work on Whitehouse Park continues. However, this does not excuse going against the Highway Code and ignoring instructions from officers. The Highway Code is set out for every single road user to follow and we have given ample opportunity for drivers to change their behaviours.

There are enough laybys, alternative roads and car parks in the area for you to collect your children. It may not be right outside the school, but is somewhere more suitable for you to collect them.

Following discussions with the school, we will continue to carry out patrols, however we will not be giving advice anymore, we will simply be issuing fixed penalty notice tickets for contravening the Highway Code.

We will either speak to you to gain your details there and then, or we will photograph your vehicle going against the Highway Code and you will receive the ticket in the post.

- Parking on the pavement is not permitted.
- Double parking is not permitted – even if it is to quickly pick up your child
- Driving and stopping in the bus lane is not permitted.
- Stopping in the no waiting area is not permitted.

Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Policing Team

SAFETY OF THE COMMUNITY



We wholeheartedly support the police in their efforts to address the ongoing parking and driving concerns in Barrosa Way, in support of the safety of the community.

Please can we also ask for support from parents and carers in parking and driving responsibly within the school car park, and following requests made by school staff on duty.

We have, regrettably, seen an increase in parents driving at speed, not stopping at the zebra crossings, and parking inconsiderately, for example blocking other parents in the drop off bays.

Blue Badge holders have contacted us to express their concerns that the disabled bays are not being left available for them.

Our duty staff in the car park are there to promote the safety of the school community, and we have increased our presence in the car park to try to address these issues. Thank you to those parents who drive considerately every day and engage positively with our staff. Abusive behaviour towards our team is not acceptable and will always be followed up

Miss Rhodes



WATLING NOTICE BOARD

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24

- Watling reopens on **Monday 15th April**
- Y7 Teacher Subject Consultation Evening @ **3:45pm to 8:00pm on Thursday 25th April**
- Y8 Teacher Subject Consultation Evening @ **3:45pm to 8:00pm on Thursday 2nd May**
- Bank holiday—Academy closed **Monday 6th May**
- End of half term @ **3:15pm on Friday 24th May**



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.

Watling Academy, Barrosa Way, Whitehouse, MK8 1EP

Phone: 01908 794094

Website: watlingacademy.net

Email: admin@watling.academy.