

Newsletter – April 2018

Walton Hall Academy

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 Walton Hall Academy

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Dates for your diary!

2018

16th April

Inset Day

17th April

Back to School

18th April

KS3 Football Team

Football Tournament at St George's Park

19th April

Visit from Lions of Zululand

Cultural group from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

26th April

Wicked at Birmingham Hippodrome

KS4 Media Group

1st May

Wingate Centre Trip

NB Class

Special Announcements

We are very sad to be saying goodbye to our Head of Care Suzanne Terry in May, Suzanne has given her very best to us over the last 12 years and we will miss her deeply! Good luck in all you do in the future Suzanne, there will always be a part of you here!



"...the most important thing is, even if we're apart..."

"I'll always be with you!"
-AA NINE

Academy Update: Amanda Cameron (Acting Principal)

What a month! Thank you to the Lions Club for a fabulous time at Waterworld on the 6th March.

Science Week: We entered science week with the extremely sad news that one of the greatest scientists of all time, Professor Stephen Hawkins, had passed away. Professor Hawkins overcame extreme physical adversity and used his brilliant mind to make hugely significant contributions to science. A truly inspirational man.

In their quest for scientific knowledge, our lucky students enjoyed visits to the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham and Wolstanton Academy to take part in a range of experiments. A big thank you to Laura Paget (our specialist science teacher) for arranging these visits and a range of exciting activities for all our students.

Preparation For Adult Life Evening: this event was very well supported by a range of local providers and advisory agencies. We hope the evening proved useful for our students and their parents.

Arts Week: we have ended the spring term on a real high with a fabulous "Arts Week" based on the 20th Century. Visiting artists included Dan Walsh the world famous banjo player who ended the first day with a fabulous concert. It was great to see everyone up and dancing! The week was packed with many wonderful creative workshops a highlight (as always,) was Wednesday's fashion show. Thank you so much to James Woodhams and Clare Evans for putting the programme together and to all the staff who ran activities throughout the week.

News from the farm: Spring is definitely in the air! New chicks have hatched and the budgies have produced yet another baby! We have adopted a little rabbit that was due to be dumped on Cannock Chase—she will be joining us after the Easter holiday.

Fit and healthy this week we had the smoothie bike in - tasting lots of fresh fruit. Now he evenings are so much lighter, I hope that everyone is inspired to get out and get active. Physical exercise is so fundamental to our emotional wellbeing and we are encouraging all our students to lead active and healthy lives.

New staff: Joining us after Easter: Chris Frid—Head of Care, Nicola Wright—Pastoral and Behaviour manager and Jack Chase, - site staff. We welcome them to the team and look forward to working with them.

Residence Update: Suzanne Terry (Head of Care)

This term has seen a variety of new initiatives and changes.

Ofsted: We have been Ofsted inspected in January 2018, and the judgement remained outstanding in all areas with no recommendations. Needless to say the Residential Team and school are immensely pleased at this outcome. The report is available on the school website.

Activities with the fun factor: We were successful in securing a bid for £450 to develop Forest skills. We have purchased a fire pit and cooking equipment, protective outdoor clothing, and some superb extendable marshmallow sticks! This money has allowed us to make the activity accessible to all pupils and it has been a popular one.

Relax, its yoga time: This activity has taken yoga and gentle exercise to a new level. It is themed. We have put the pupils through various "work outs" themed to Star Wars or other films much to the amusement of pupils who have had a great time.

All our activities are pupil led and we regularly receive feedback to help us improve on the service we provide. Photos of students participating in some of our activities are on the back page!

If you would like a copy of the activities in advance of the half term so that you know what your child is going to be doing please ask a member of the residential team.

Farewell and thanks: After being Head of Care for the past 5 years, it is now time for me to leave. I am leaving on May 4th. I can honestly say this has been the best job I have ever had, the most challenging and the most rewarding. I wish to say a heartfelt thank you to all the parents and pupils that have made it such a pleasure, and the Residential Team for their continued support and commitment to improving the lives of our young people.



LIONS OF ZULULAND

Cultural group from KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

On Thursday 19th April the Lions of Zululand will be visiting our school to perform a stage show of beautiful, evocative vocal harmonies and dances of the Zulu nation in traditional Zulu costume. Throughout the day students will attend 4 workshops: Art, Dance, Music and Culture and Language. They will then put on a performance with the Lions to parents, this will be at 2:40pm. Please join us if you can.

The group sometimes bring traditional Zulu jewellery /pins / CDs for sale (badges starting from £2, CDs are £10).

What have we been doing?

Residence Activities!



Fun in the dark



Toasting marshmallows



Out at Stafford Library, looking at local services



Independence skills - cooking our own tea

We raised a fantastic **£80.00** for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity on superhero Day!



We raised a whopping **£273** towards a new Key Stage 3 Sensory Room during our Mothers' Day Independent Shopping Day!

Science Week!

The KS4 students who are studying BTEC Applied Science visited the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham during Science week. They had a fabulous time and were especially interested in the robotics workshop.



All behaviour was exemplary, we had a fantastic day and hope to visit again next year.

A range of students from KS3 and KS5 also attended a special science assembly at Wolstanton High school that was led by their science technicians. The students had a fabulous time and thoroughly enjoyed the huge range of demonstrations and hands on investigations that were on display.



Pupil of the month!

Aaron D— LP's Class

For tidying up the library on a regular basis and working on the plots of garden by reception to make sure they are tidy.

Well done Aaron and thank you.

House points

March's

Individual Leader

Callum M



Caitlin T

Winning House



Overall Winners



Attendance

Highest attendees this month are...

NB's Class with 95%

Overall school attendance is 90%

Target for all students is 96%

Congratulations to Mrs Kate Heard and her husband Danny on the Birth of your truly yummy daughter Elsie May Heard.

Elsie was born on 20th March 2018 at 5.17pm, weighing a healthy 7lb 13oz.

We can't wait for a cuddle!



School Lunch



Prior Warning

School lunches will be increasing to **£2.30 per meal (£11.50 per week)** from **September 2018**

Take **PRIDE** in how far **YOU** have come. And **HAVE FAITH** in how far you can **GO!**



Chair of the Walton Hall Academy Council

The Academy Council has elected a new Chair, Mitchell Gosling. Mitchell bring a wealth of valuable knowledge to the Academy Council and we look forward to working closely with him.



Mitchell has been running his own business Safer Driver Training for three years and prior to this he was a science teacher for over thirty years, the last ten years as Head of Faculty.